

I am especially thankful for him being one of the heroic boots-on-the-ground firefighters in my hometown of Johnson City, Tennessee, when it experienced its worst-ever disaster on Christmas Eve 1989. For 5 hours, fire crews worked tirelessly as the fire spread throughout the city's tallest building, the John Sevier apartment building.

Our community mourned the 16 lives claimed by that tragedy. And my church, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, served as a morgue that Christmas Eve night.

It is my honor to recognize the life of Sergeant Mike McInturff and commend him for his 39 faithful years of service. My prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

FARM STRESS AND OPIOIDS IN MISSISSIPPI

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, September is National Recovery Month, a time to look for ways to support recovery strategies for mental health and substance use disorders.

Mississippi State University's Extension Service is working to reduce opioid misuse by farmers and ranchers across our State.

Farmers have to face changing markets, weather events, financial hardships, leading to farm stress while operating in one of the most hazardous occupations. A valid opioid prescription given to a farmer can lead to opioid misuse. Three out of four farmers have reported that they have been affected by opioid misuse, and that opioids can be easily accessed.

Through support from the USDA and SAMHSA, Mississippi State University is training extension service agents to deliver mental health first aid to farmers, as well as working with pharmacists and medical personnel to better recognize misuse. This program is already demonstrating incredible results as farmers are utilizing extension agents to seek care.

I applaud the work of Mississippi State University and other organizations in Mississippi that recognize needs in our community and are finding creative ways to reach Mississippians with care.

WORLD HEART DAY

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to one of the most important issues facing our Nation and world.

This weekend is World Heart Day, a time for individuals around the globe to annually be informed about the issues surrounding cardiovascular dis-

ease, which includes heart disease and stroke, and to highlight the actions that individuals can take to prevent and control the disease.

You see, cardiovascular disease is the world's leading cause of death. Each year it claims the lives of almost 18 million people, while devastating many more families.

You see, I have cardiovascular disease; and as someone with a heart condition, I humbly stand before the House and I say that we can do better.

World Heart Day is about families, communities, and governments around the globe coming together, regardless of affiliation, to combat a shared enemy that affects the lives of far too many.

With controlling our diets, sticking to an exercise regimen, and avoiding the use of tobacco products, 80 percent of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease can be avoided.

Please join me in taking control of your health before it is too late.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF JOHNNY MAGIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the award-winning host of XL 106.7's morning show, Johnny Magic, with his show, Johnny's House, for the great work he has done for the Central Florida community.

Johnny was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, but has called Orlando home for the last 30 years, while working for XL 106.7. He uses his voice, talents, and resources to work with our community. During times of need, after natural disasters, and times of crisis in our community, he has gone out of his way to help those in need. He genuinely cares for this community, and it shows through all of his hard work.

Johnny Magic has witnessed firsthand the struggles that many families in our community experience. These experiences inspired him to develop a program that would make it possible for disadvantaged families to provide a wonderful holiday experience for their children. This is how the Baby DJ, Inc. program came to fruition.

Over the last 25 years, this program has worked and collaborated with local churches, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to fulfill this mission. With the help of volunteers, the Baby DJ program has been able to provide resources to assist families in need and, in recent years, has expanded their operation to serve other charitable efforts that take place throughout the year.

The program has provided backpacks and school supplies to countless schools in need in central Florida. These supplies provide a welcome relief to the families and students, as well as

to teachers who routinely pay for school supplies for students and for their classrooms.

Johnny Magic, and his team, and the Baby DJ program, are not only inspiring, but it is also what makes central Florida so wonderful.

So I want to thank Johnny Magic, I want to thank the good folks at Johnny's House, the Baby DJ, Inc. program for their contributions and for his contribution to central Florida.

HONORING DR. YARISA BONET

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Dr. Yarisa Bonet.

Dr. Bonet is a professional dedicated to education. Her mission is to provide tools to individuals to achieve a productive work-life balance and adopt healthy lifestyles.

Dr. Bonet is active in many community organizations. She is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce, and the chair of the adult leadership class. She is a Haines City Rotarian and an active member of the Hispanic Professional and Business Women Association.

Dr. Bonet is a community-centric individual who has counseled, trained, mentored and educated her community for over 16 years.

In 2014, she founded Fibrofit Wellness & Yoga, a wellness and yoga center with offices in Orlando and Davenport.

□ 1745

She has also developed wellness-related education programs, such as "Kill Stress in 3 Steps."

Last summer, Dr. Bonet launched the YLove Project, a free yoga, meditation, and emotional intelligence program for kids.

She also has over 14 years of experience in healthcare management and has been the keynote speaker for hospitals and medical organizations in the areas of teaching about emotional intelligence and patient-centered care.

Dr. Bonet holds a doctor of education from Nova Southeastern University. She has a master's degree in mental health and rehabilitation counseling from the University of North Florida, a graduate certification in psychiatric vocational rehabilitation from Boston University, and a bachelor's degree in sciences from the University of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Bonet is a certified emotional intelligence facilitator, a registered yoga teacher, and a certified meditation teacher. Yarisa also holds a certification in executive and talent coaching by Peoples Advantage.

Dr. Bonet has been married for 17 years and has three boys. I would be remiss if I didn't mention she is a fellow Boricua.

For that, we honor Dr. Yarisa Bonet.

HONORING CLAUDIA CAMACHO

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Claudia Camacho.

Claudia Camacho is a bilingual professional and experienced administrator in the areas of admissions, academic affairs, faculty supervision, and training at Ana G. Mendez University.

Claudia has over 20 years of a strong background in customer service. In 2002, she started working at Walt Disney World, providing orientation and mentorship to new cast members in all aspects of merchandise operations in the park and assisting managers.

In 2005, she started working as an integrated services officer at Ana G. Mendez University, Metro Orlando Campus.

Through her 14 years of experience working in various positions at the university, she has championed the admissions and academic affairs departments. Along with recruitment and personnel training, she has continuously succeeded in the development of program initiatives and special projects.

As an associate director, she has participated in various events across central Florida in support of the Hispanic community. In addition, she has served as a liaison between the university and different organizations across central Florida, providing assistance and resources to the community.

Claudia has been a member of the Academic and Student Affairs Commission; the Academic Leadership Team; and the Discipline, Curriculum Development, and the Commencement Coordination Committees of the university.

Ms. Camacho earned a bachelor's degree in industrial chemistry from the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Humacao campus in 1991. In 2005, she graduated from the Universidad Metropolitana at Ana G. Mendez University with a master's degree in business administration.

Claudia also promotes a respectful, inclusive environment that embraces diversity. As a leader, one of her top priorities is to serve and support the Hispanic community and other fellow Boricuas from central Florida.

For that, we honor Ms. Claudia Camacho.

HONORING YANIDSI VELEZ QUILES

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Yanidsi Velez Quiles.

Yanidsi Velez Quiles was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and raised in the municipality of Carolina known as La Tierra de Gigantes, the land of the giants.

Yanidsi is the granddaughter of two veterans who served in the 65th infantry division of the United States Army, also known as The Borinqueneers, which served in World War II.

Yanidsi is the daughter of two self-driven entrepreneurs and a first-generation college student. She is also the wife of a loving and supportive Ponceno, someone from Ponce, and a devoted foster and adoptive mother.

Yanidsi has been a leading advocate for Hispanic grassroots organizations and pro-Latino legislation at the local

and statewide level. Her public service and nonprofit career spans more than a decade.

Yanidsi's leadership and community expertise, developed from doing work on the ground through community organizing, capacity-building, and advocacy work, has helped improve our way of life. She has led multiple civic engagement initiatives, issue-based campaigns, and programs that resulted in empowering over 800,000 Latinx individuals.

In recent years, she has been a strong advocate for the thousands of displaced Puerto Rican families who have sought to rebuild their lives in Florida, as well as those who continue to work to rebuild on the island.

Currently, Yanidsi is a senior State director for the Hispanic Federation. Yanidsi manages Hispanic Federation's Florida operations overall, with a primary focus on strategic planning, program development, public policy advocacy, and resource development.

Yanidsi is most known as a woman of faith, passion, and compassion. She embodies the courage and strength within our community.

For that, we honor Ms. Yanidsi Velez Quiles.

HONORING HENRY CORDERO

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Henry Cordero.

Henry was born and raised in the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. He was raised by his parents, Felix Cordero and Norma Melendez.

During Henry's school years, he was elected president of the 4-H Puerto Rico chapter. He won the National Citizen award, representing Puerto Rico, and was nominated and elected the president of the Puerto Rico Council Youth Office.

Henry is a natural artist, playing instruments without taking any music lessons. He has been the singer of several music groups, such as Juventud 78, The Caps Band, and Henry's Combo Show.

Henry worked at Cordero Studios as a photographer with his brother, Felix Cordero, for over 20 years. Henry learned all about photography, lights, illumination, setup, portraits, and other techniques from his brother, Felix Cordero.

Since Henry moved to Florida in 1996, he has not stopped working to reach the American Dream. As an entrepreneur, he developed his own business, Cordero Studio Productions, which offers services for all your needs, such as photography, videography, photo booths, sound, music, pipe and drape, video projectors, video screens, event coordinator, t-shirt printing, and more.

Henry is very involved in the community. With his talent, he provides services to local schools, nonprofit agencies, churches, and other local groups.

Henry lives in Orlando, Florida, with his wife of 33 years and his three children, Mariangelix, Henry, Jr., and Erik. At this time, Henry has one

grandchild, Soleil. He is also supportive of his wife, Maribel, who has been elected as Orange County Commissioner in central Florida.

Henry continues to be an asset within our community, with all his talents and dedication.

For that, we honor Mr. Henry Cordero.

HONORING KELLY QUINTERO

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Kelly Quintero.

Kelly Quintero is a first-generation American born to Colombian immigrants, Juan Carlos and Julieta Quintero, in New Jersey.

As a student at the University of Central Florida, Kelly was actively involved in a number of student organizations on campus while earning her bachelor's in international relations.

Kelly interned for my office as a then-State senator in Tallahassee during the State legislative session. Since then, Kelly knew that being part of politics and the political process was her calling.

Soon after graduating, in 2013, Kelly worked for the Orange County government, overseeing bilingual communications. She then transitioned to central Florida political director for Hillary Rodham Clinton's Presidential campaign. Kelly's involvement with the campaign introduced her to community leaders who inspired her to use her skills, knowledge, and relationships to advocate for communities in need.

In 2017, Kelly was the State legislative advocate for the League of Women Voters of Florida, where she worked with allies and elected officials to advocate on issues like gun control, voter rights, and funding for public education. Kelly successfully raised awareness on these issues with the help of statewide members.

Soon after, Kelly began a new challenge as the director of advocacy and government relations for Second Harvest Food Bank of central Florida, the largest hunger-relief organization in the region. In this role, she has increased community engagement on advocacy efforts, including the farm bill, the intersection of health, hunger, and education of food insecurity and other issues at all levels of government. This has resulted in receiving Feeding America's Advocacy Hall of Fame Award every year.

Kelly is also a 2018 recipient of the Orlando Business Journal's 40 Under 40 award. Kelly resides in Orlando, Florida, with her husband, Eddie Johnstone, and their two cats.

For that, we honor Ms. Kelly Quintero.

HONORING SORAYA MARQUEZ

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Soraya Marquez.

Soraya Marquez is a Venezuelan leader in central Florida. During the last 20 years, Soraya Marquez has organized local communities within different Latin communities in Orlando, Florida.

Soraya has also conducted electoral campaigns, motivating citizens to register and exercise the right to vote in each election, having led the registration of 100,000 new voters in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Hillsborough Counties in elections since 2012.

Soraya's work has transcended to local high school projects, where she has encouraged students to become an active part of the electoral process. Soraya has promoted conferences with elected officials about the operation of cities and counties, as well as incorporating the importance of climate change. Soraya keeps the immigrant community on her daily agenda through meetings, informational sessions, and clinics in the face of immigration reform.

Another priority for Soraya in the community has been free citizenship workshops, promoting the change and the perception of permanent legal residents by taking the important step of being a citizen of the United States.

Soraya Marquez and her husband, Gustavo Marquez, are the founders of the C-Ciudadano organization. Soraya is also the state director of Mi Familia Vota in Florida.

One of Soraya's most important awards includes the recognition of the Government of Mexico with the Ohtli Award for community leaders.

For that, we honor Ms. Soraya Marquez.

HONORING JENNIFER A. MARCIAL OCASIO

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Jennifer Marcial Ocasio.

Jennifer A. Marcial Ocasio is the senior content editor of *El Sentinel* Orlando. Jennifer manages the team covering all news related to the central Florida Hispanic community and focuses mainly on *El Sentinel*'s digital platforms and the production and editing of the Spanish weekly.

Jennifer has been working in the media business for over a decade. Before joining *El Sentinel*, Jennifer launched and managed the online web page for Univision Puerto Rico, where she served as a team leader for nearly 5 years. Jennifer is driven by breaking news, human interest stories, and social media.

Jennifer is a proud, born-and-raised Puerto Rican and feels honored representing her culture in the continental United States.

Jennifer has a bachelor's degree in journalism with a second concentration in political science from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in communications from Florida International University.

Since she moved to Orlando, Jennifer has become a key role model and leader for the Hispanic community. She has given a voice to the underserved communities and works tirelessly to have their stories and achievements heard.

Jennifer serves as the current president of the central Florida chapter of the National Association of Hispanic

Journalists and works to promote the work and opportunities of #MoreLatinosInNews.

For that, we honor Ms. Jennifer A. Marcial Ocasio.

HONORING HOMAN MACHUCA

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Homan Machuca.

At the age of 16, Homan Machuca began a career in broadcasting as a recording assistant at Nuevo Continente of Bogota, the first evangelical Christian radio station founded in Colombia, where he later advanced to general manager. Homan also worked at Todelar, one of the largest radio networks in Colombia.

Homan studied at Colegio Superior of Telecommunications and the University of America in Bogota, where he received his degree in journalism and communications.

□ 1800

Homan relocated to the United States in 1984, where he was employed as a journalist for *La Magica* 1220 news. He then worked as the news director for *Noticias 11Q* radio; *Cosmos 1270* radio; *Cadena Fantastica* radio; *Viva 1160 AM* radio; and *Univision* television channel 63, in Orlando, Florida, as well.

Homan was the first Latino to transmit via satellite for the NASA space shuttle launches with *United Latin Television* to stations in Latin America and Europe.

Homan Machuca won an Emmy Award for his work in television arts & science.

Machuca is a five-time Paoli Award recipient. In 2008, he was awarded the Don Quijote award. He was awarded the Reportaje del Año with *United Press International* for the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster that deeply affected our State and the Nation. Before the Challenger disaster, he was on the list of journalists to be able to travel to space.

Machuca is currently working as a senior reporter for *Telemundo 31 NBC Station* in Orlando and is the host of *ENFOQUE*, a program that explores social, economic, political, and community analysis. Homan continues to report and perform voiceovers for organizations such as *National Geographic*, *Discovery*, and others.

Machuca serves with different organizations as a volunteer in the Hispanic community, including *COAMED*, a group of doctors from Orlando who travel to different countries helping people with medical necessities. He also is part of *Whipping Childhood Cancer*, an organization dedicated to helping kids diagnosed with cancer. He has served as a board of director there for 4 years.

Machuca married his wife, Dawn Dodge Machuca, in Colombia in 1975. They currently reside in Florida with their children, Elaine, Timothy, and Nathalie.

Mr. Speaker, for that, we honor Mr. Homan Machuca.

HONORING JACKIE COLON

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Jackie Colon.

Jackie Colon was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and came to the United States at the age of 7. After Jackie lost her father, Julio Jaime, at the age of 11, her mom, Maria, was determined to carry on her husband's legacy for her family.

Jackie attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and received her MBA from Florida Christian University. Ms. Colon married her high school sweetheart, Charles Colon, who later became a U.S. Navy officer. They have two children, Jasmine and Charles Jovani. Before moving to Florida, Ms. Colon worked for several Fortune 500 companies on Wall Street.

Jackie Colon is now the southeast regional director for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, known as NALEO. She is also CEO and President of JC Consulting, LLC.

Jackie became the first Hispanic elected to the Palm Bay city council. She was the youngest deputy mayor in the history of the city of Palm Bay, Florida. She was the first elected Hispanic elected to the Brevard County Commission and served as chairman of the board of the County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida.

Jackie served as a gubernatorial appointment to Governor Jeb Bush as Florida Commissioner on the Status of Women; gubernatorial appointment to the East Central Florida Planning Council by Governor CHARLIE CRIST; Space Coast delegation liaison to U.S. Senator Bill Nelson; senatorial appointment to U.S. Senator Mel Martinez to the Armed Forces Service Academy Selection Committee.

Ms. Colon was a board member of the Association of the United States Army and chairman of the Juvenile Justice Council as well.

She has received the Legislator of the Year Award by the Children's Advocacy Council; Woman of the Year Government Award by the Central Florida Citrus Council; Leadership Award by the 45th Space Wing, Patrick Air Force Base; Patriot Award by the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans; named one of the 25 Most Influential Hispanics in Central Florida by *Vision Magazine* as well.

Ms. Jackie Colon has served at the local, State, and national level. She has represented companies in North and South America as well. Ms. Colon has been a keynote speaker in International Business Summits in Brazil. She is a life coach, motivational speaker, and continues to inspire thousands across North and South America.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, we honor Jackie Colon.

HONORING ALIBETH SUAREZ

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize Alibeth Suarez.

Alibeth Suarez is a journalist, originally from Venezuela, with a passion to

communicate and to support humanitarian causes.

She graduated from high school with the best school rating average and obtained a bachelor's degree in communications from Central University of Venezuela. Her graduation project was the creation of a community digital newspaper, which received a distinguished mention.

In 2015, Alibeth moved to the U.S. She started attending English classes with the Orange County Library System. Today, she is bilingual and works as a Questline Reference Assistant and has been with the libraries for 4 years.

She is a Library Ambassador, promoting different classes, events, and programs. In the last 2 years, she has spoken to around 20,000 people about library resources and created the idea of a radio show called Portada in Mas 100.7 FM to express in English and Spanish the different options the library offers, especially to the Hispanic community.

Currently, with about 50 shows aired and 31 guests interviewed, Alibeth continues to open new bridges for the community to learn, grow, and connect.

She is planning a project for Hispanics to help better understand the need to save the planet and be grateful about how the U.S. is a land of opportunities.

She acts as media coordinator for Casa de Venezuela Orlando, where she is helping in the process of collecting and shipping medical supplies to Venezuela in the cause for freedom and restoring democracy, as well as assisting fellow immigrants, especially lobbying for a bipartisan bill to approve temporary protective status for Venezuelans, a bill that I had the honor of passing through this Chamber last month.

At present, Alibeth lives in Orange County, Florida, and is a proud constituent of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, for that, we honor Alibeth Suarez.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone for joining me tonight on this Special Order.

In August, my colleagues and I traveled to Israel with the United States-Israel Education Association, and tonight we wanted to share with you about our trip. I am joined by BRADLEY BYRNE from Alabama, ANN WAGNER from Missouri, and Dr. PHIL ROE from Tennessee.

Through the years, the USIEA has led Members of Congress behind the

Green Line, so into the West Bank, in Judea and Samaria.

Tonight we wanted to share with you some of what we saw, what we learned, witnessing the economic cooperation and integrated businesses between Palestinian and Israeli business leaders. It is really an untold story. It is an untold story, one that includes the story of hope and opportunity.

For me, it was my first trip to Israel since being named the United States Representative to the U.N., and it renewed my strong commitment to ensure that America remains a bipartisan, steadfast, and staunch supporter of Israel.

Tonight we are going to get started with my friend and colleague from Alabama, BRADLEY BYRNE, to share about the trip.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) both for giving me this time, but also for her leadership on this and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, beside me is a photograph of myself; Avi Zimmerman, who is the head of the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce, an Israeli Jew; Sheik Ashraf Jabari, a Palestinian businessman; the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS); the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER); and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mrs. WAGNER and Dr. ROE joined Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS and me on this incredible trip. We are standing in the Sheik's home in Hebron. The Sheik is a former security adviser to the Palestinian Authority, an incredible businessman.

Now, before I get back to that meeting, I want to make sure that we begin to make clear to everybody in America that much of what we have learned or believed we have learned about what is going on in Israel between Israelis and Palestinians is not true.

What we learned, both from Sheik Jabari and from others, is that something new and exciting is happening between the Israelis and the Palestinians in Israel.

There is this idea out there that the Israelis and the Palestinians have been fighting one another for years. That is not true.

The truth of the matter is, after the Romans expelled most of the Jews from Israel in the first and second century AD, there remained a small number of Jews in what was known as Israel and then later on as the Province of Palestine. Then over the years, some would creep back in, but there was a relatively small number of Jews in that land, and they lived in peace with their Arab neighbors.

It wasn't until the 20th century, when large numbers of Jews began to move into that area from Europe and the U.S. and other places, that we began to see some clashes between the Arabs that lived in that area and the Jews that were moving there.

In 1948, when Israel proclaimed itself to be a State, there was an unfortunate war between them, their Arab neighbors, and many of the Arab countries that surrounded them.

As a result of that, a State was formed with true territories, but there was a problem between Israel and Jordan, which was one of the countries that they fought, and in order to decide who lived where, they took a green pen and wrote on a map a line, and it was called the Green Line. Jordan existed, or had control, on the east side of that Green Line, Israel on the west.

A second unfortunate war occurred in 1967, the Six-Day War, which many of us remember. As a result of that war, Israel was able to take control of all of the area that is now within Israel on the east side of the Green Line.

Those two wars and what came out of them is where a lot of the problems between the Palestinians and the Israelis started. It is not ancient, it is not built into their genes. It is not something that can't be overcome.

So let me go back to this picture. Avi Zimmerman, as I said, is an Israeli Jew, and Sheik Jabari is a Palestinian Muslim standing next to one another in his home in Hebron.

We actually heard from them and other Israelis and other Palestinians about their desires and their efforts to work together in business and industry and economics. It is bringing people together.

The day before we visited the Sheik, we were in a town in the northern part of Israel—in what Israel calls Samaria—called Ariel. In Ariel, there are two parts, two industrial parts, that have 209 different manufacturing companies in them. Most of the people working in those manufacturing factories are Palestinians, and they make on average four times as much as they could make if they were working somewhere else in what we, unfortunately, call the West Bank, but is really not the West Bank.

It is good for those Palestinians to make that much money. It is good for them to be able to take advantage of the miracle of the Israeli economy. Giving them that opportunity so that they can have a better life for themselves and their families is hope.

Sheik Jabari and what he is trying to do is hope.

What the people in Israel need more than anything else is hope.

Perhaps our struggles over the last 20 years to create a two-state solution there has blinded us from the fact that this is really about people. It is not about lines drawn on a piece of paper that we can't seem to get a resolution to.

□ 1815

Those people, if they are allowed to live and work together as they want to, maybe they will find peace on their own without some push from the rest of us, which seems to be getting us nowhere.