

Ms. Jones has been a devout Christian and has played an active role in her church. Her involvement with the Jordan Missionary Baptist Church began in the late 1960s, where she has been an active member for over 56 years. In 2015, she was honored as one of the Church Mothers, recognizing her long-standing commitment to her community.

As we mark her 100th birthday, we celebrate Margie's contributions to her family and community. Happy 100th birthday to Ms. Jones.

HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Constitution Week. I also rise to recognize the work and dedication that the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution pour into preserving and promoting the history of our Nation.

It is a privilege to commemorate the 236th anniversary of the drafting and adoption of the Constitution of the United States of America. Constitution Week serves as a reminder of the enduring importance of our Constitution and the freedoms it guarantees. The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution play an invaluable role in educating future generations about the principles enshrined by our founding fathers.

Through educational initiatives, historical preservation efforts, and community outreach, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution actively engage in preserving our nation's story. Their programs—from providing scholarships to holding essay contests to facilitating history projects—encourage young Americans to take pride in their country and serve as a reminder to Americans of their civic duty to protect and defend the Constitution.

I thank the Daughters of the American Revolution Fredericksburg Chapter and the Surgeon Lawrence Brooks Society of the Children of the American Revolution for their dedication and service to our communities on behalf of this noble cause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Constitution Week and recognizing the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution for their remarkable achievements and their continued commitment to educating the American people about the United States Constitution and the history of our Nation.

REMARKS ON THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

ON THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Palestinian award-winning author and lawyer, Raja Shehadeh is co-founder in 1979 of Al-Haq, the Palestinian human rights organization. The Observer loaded him, "Palestine's greatest prose writer" and the New York Times Book Review heaps praises as well, "in his moral clarity and bearing of the heart is self-questioning and assistance on focusing on the experience of the individual within the storms of nationalist myth and hubris, Shehadeh recalls writers such as Ghassan Kanafani and Primo Levi."

In his latest book with a challenging title, *What Does Israel Fear From Palestine?* New York: Other Press, 2024, Shehadeh, clearly a Palestinian patriot who was born in 1951 in the West Bank town of Ramallah, offers us a concise packed yet imbalanced perspective on the long and agonizing Palestinian-Israeli conflict that the October 7, 2023, Hamas's vile attack with terrifying Holocaust dimensions, has brought into sharp view with months of fighting and much suffering to both sides. The detail-oriented writer and activist is anchored in the Palestinian saga of loss and grievances going back to the pivotal 1948 victorious Israeli War of Independence which the Palestinians painfully regard as their Nakba (Catastrophe).

Touching are the author's reminiscences of growing up in Ramallah with his grandma who was a refugee from Jaffa, ever missing her old home and inculcating in her young grandson an attachment to the family's past. "For a long time, I was hostage to the memories, perceptions and attitudes of others that I could not abandon. My sense of place was not my own." However, following the 1967 War when he was able to visit Jaffa, his family's roots gained a realistic sense of belonging. The close physical proximity was a primary factor.

Shehadeh blames the British for the turn of events culminating in the 1948 Arab defeat and the Palestinian debacle, pointing at the 1917 Balfour Declaration as the root cause, stating that the 1922 to 1948 British Mandate was dedicated to fulfilling the earlier declared British commitment toward the Jewish people. I believe that historians would beg to differ, regarding a gradual British shift in the Arabs' favor and manifested in severe limits on Jewish refugees before and after WWII and the Holocaust. Intense Jewish military pressure was created as the British Empire was disintegrating. The author claims that "what happened in Palestine was the utter dissolution of a nation," notwithstanding the acknowledged fact that no such "nation" historically existed yet the Israeli Jewish narrative supported by the Bible claims past millennial Jewish life and creativity which is cavalierly dismissed by the author, "Israel treated the Bible as a historical document and used it to back up the claim that the land had belonged to the Jews from time immemorial, having been promised to them by the Almighty."

He bemoans the fate of the Palestinian Arabs, about 160,000, who remained in Israel and were "forced" to celebrate Israel Independence Day. Admittedly, they were caught in a bind but there is no evidence that they were coerced to celebrate Israel's national festivals. After all they have enjoyed the benefits of becoming Israeli citizens and significant progress of integration was accomplished though challenges remain in a complex scenario with serious security issues. There is evidence of growing Palestinization of Arab Israelis while polls reflect no desire on their part to trade their Israeli citizenship for an Arab one. There is no mention by the author of the 750,000 Jewish refugees in 1948 from Arab lands who left under duress, subject to pogroms and losing their belongings following centuries of discrimination.

It is hard for Shehadeh to come to grips with Israel's success to establish a modern Jewish national identity, defined by him as "Zionist colonization," with the revitalized Hebrew language bestowing Hebrew names on the rebuilt landscape that had carried Arab ones. He points at, a non-starter, proposal of his late father, Aziz Shehadeh, following the 1967 War, to use the 1947 Partition Resolution—then denied by the Arabs—for a Palestinian state. Abba Eban, Israel's legendary foreign minister, insightfully coined that the Palestinians "never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity." Indeed, the controversial Jewish State Law of July 19, 1948, caused understandable consternation among Israeli Arabs, exacerbated by the dropping of Arabic as an official language. Sadly, I share with the author, only 3% of Israeli Jews are literate in Arabic. That is part of an important discussion concerning Israel's better integration into the surrounding Arab Middle East while there are those Israelis who prefer a Western orientation. I suggest that both approaches ought to be pursued tandem.

The book's Part Two is dedicated to the Gaza War, 2023-4, triggered by the October 7, 2023, Hamas's massacres which the author thankfully condemns though seemingly impressed with the military aspects of catching Israel by surprise as Egypt did in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the breaking through the failed billion plus costly barrier, along with the heavy Israeli fatalities, casualties and captives. "The brutality of Hamas's attack and the civilian death toll certainly cast a shadow on their military success."

Whereas an occupied population has the right under the international law to resist, they have no right to commit war crimes. Still, this time the Palestinians did not fit into the role of victims. To the Israelis it seemed like aggressors who were challenging Israel's very existence."

The astute Shehadeh is surely aware that Gaza was returned to the Palestinians in 2005 by then Prime Minister Sharon, followed by Hamas's forceful occupation and the cruel toppling of the Palestinian Authority there with no elections since the 2006 Hamas's "victory". He regards the Israeli response to the October 7 Nazi-like Hamas's massacres excessive, expecting public Israeli criticism as back in 1982 with the horrific Sabra and Shatila massacres in Lebanon. The author though surely knows that the Christian Phalangists had a decisive hand at that time. Somehow, there is no reference also to Iran's leading role in directing its radical proxies, Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis and others, to prevent the near peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia with the successful foundation of the Abraham Accords. Also, the author's comparison of Israel to the once South African apartheid state is misleading.

I wholeheartedly concur with Shehadeh's following assessment, "Young Israelis felt secure enough that they planned a rave night on the border with Gaza. But when Hamas broke through Israel's vulnerability and insecurity were exposed. Israelis were traumatized because they realized they couldn't go on with their life in the same way, making the same assumptions about the reality of the state and its security. Unless, that is, they defeated the aggressor." I also share the author's own response to his book's title, "The very high human and material cost of the war in Gaza proves that what Israel fears from Palestine is Palestine's very existence." Surely a Hamas controlled Palestinian state is not accepted by Israel for obvious reasons.

I do appreciate Shehadeh's optimism concerning the future, "And yet, looking back at the history of the region it is only after great upheavals that hopeful consequences

follow.” However, the central question and challenge remain, whether two separate and contradictory narratives can be reconciled for the future sake of both peoples.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach, Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up Haifa, Israel.

HONORING COMMISSIONER L.
JEFFREY GREEN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise to recognize Cooper City Commissioner L. Jeffrey Green.

Jeffrey Green began his career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in January 1988 and recently celebrated his 36th year with the Bureau. Mr. Green currently serves as the Community Relations Coordinator for the Miami Division and is responsible for expanding the FBI's presence in local communities through civic and community engagement.

In addition to his FBI career, Mr. Green is also an elected Commissioner for Cooper City. In this capacity, Commissioner Green is one of five elected officials responsible for governing local municipal affairs. This includes providing oversight of the City's \$60+ million-dollar budget, its public safety operations, and all aspects of running a local government.

Commissioner Green will be ending his term serving the City this November. As a devoted public servant for more than 14 years, Commissioner Green helped transform Cooper City into “Someplace Special” to work, live, and raise a family.

Commissioner Green leads with his heart and has been a calming voice on the City Commission throughout his tenure. On behalf of the people of Florida's 25th District, we are grateful for his leadership and wish him well. We appreciate his invaluable work for the residents of Cooper City.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS AND AMERICAN
SAMOA CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SUPPORT ACT OF 2024

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that gives this House an opportunity to provide more funding for policing.

My bill, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa Criminal Justice Support Act, does this by allowing the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa to be treated as two separate entities for the purposes of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. Currently, the Marianas and American Samoa are considered as one

entity for funding, unlike the other U.S. insular areas—Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands—which are treated as individual jurisdictions, as are all fifty States.

By fixing this inequity in funding for police in the Marianas and American Samoa, we can ensure our local law enforcement agencies receive the necessary training and equipment they need to keep our communities safe. Making this change will also provide more funding to support prosecutors and the courts, as well as justice-related initiatives aimed at crime prevention.

Local law enforcement is increasingly the first line of defense against the evolving security threats our country faces. We must do all we can to recognize the vital role of our police in maintaining public safety.

The gentlelady from American Samoa, Ms. RADEWAGEN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge all my colleagues to consider this critical and bipartisan legislation for the good of our island communities.

CELEBRATING ASCOT HILLS CHALLENGE 5K RUN/WALK 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the Ascot Hills Challenge 5K Run/Walk for their 10 years of organizing a 3.1-mile trail course in Northeast Los Angeles.

Founded by Troy Carbajal, Marleen Fonseca, and David Sifuentes, residents of El Sereno in California's 34th Congressional District, the Ascot Hills Challenge 5K Run/Walk has donated event proceeds to support the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) fire academy magnet school program as well as the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) student police cadet program at Woodrow Wilson High School since 2014.

Both the LAFD fire academy magnet school program and the LAPD student police cadet program offer a rigorous and disciplined curriculum developed for young men and women expressing an interest in a public service career.

Additionally, a portion of the proceeds also goes to assist with the efforts to protect, beautify, and maintain Ascot Hills Park for its continual community use.

This annual event not only connects residents with valuable resources and organizations in the community, but also serves to encourage youth to exercise and participate in public service.

With limited green space in Northeast Los Angeles, we are grateful to have leaders like Troy, Marleen, and David who ensure that Angelenos get to experience the green spaces in Los Angeles through events like the Ascot Hills Challenge 5K Run/Walk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for the Ascot Hills Challenge 5K Run/Walk, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 10 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS
SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize September 2024 as Sepsis Awareness Month. We honor individuals who have been affected by sepsis and pledge unwavering support and recognition of the diagnosis to patients and families.

Sepsis is a life-threatening medical emergency triggered by the body's extreme response to an infection. It occurs when an existing infection spurs a chain reaction throughout the body and rapidly leads to tissue damage, organ failure, and death without treatment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 1.7 million American adults are diagnosed with sepsis and 350,000 adults die or are discharged to hospice as a result of it every year. Accordingly, 1 in 3 people who die in a hospital had sepsis during that hospitalization and for every hour treatment is delayed, the risk of death increases by 4 percent to 9 percent. This life-threatening medical emergency is the leading cause of death in U.S. hospitals.

To raise awareness around this devastating diagnosis, we must educate people, share survivor stories, and support innovation and research. According to the Sepsis Alliance, an estimated 37 percent of U.S. adults have never heard of sepsis, reinforcing the need to arm communities with the resources to recognize and respond to it. Our commitment to accelerating education of the diagnosis must remain a priority to save lives and limbs from sepsis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the month of September to advocate for patients diagnosed with sepsis and for the tireless work of the families, caretakers, and researchers supporting those who have been impacted by it.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION
WEEK

HON. THOMAS MASSIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a republic dedicated to rule by law.

September 17, 2024, marks the two hundred and thirty-seventh anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention.

It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it.

To honor this year's Constitution Week, I ask my fellow citizens, and especially my fellow Members of Congress, to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.