

nations have launched wars against Israel and attempted to cripple its economy through boycotts. Terrorists have attacked repeatedly, killing civilians and soldiers alike. Iranian leaders have threatened to “wipe Israel off the map” and are steadily moving toward acquiring the means to do so. Israel's enemies are engaged in a campaign to delegitimize the Jewish state.

Even in the face of continual efforts to defeat and destroy Israel, the Jewish state has been successful in establishing more peaceful relations with its neighbors and making its people more secure. Israel has signed peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan. Its efforts to combat terrorism have resulted in a reduction in terrorist attacks—cutting that number in half since 2006. Israel also continues to seek peace with the Palestinians.

Despite overwhelming odds, Israel has not only survived, but it has flourished for the past 62 years. Israel has established a representative democracy with an independent judicial system and strong rule of law. Its citizens are free to worship and speak as they wish.

Israel has also established itself as a world leader in technological innovation. Despite more than half its land being desert, Israelis have “made the desert bloom,” growing food for consumption and export. Its universities are first-rate, producing new generations of artists, entrepreneurs, scientists and doctors. And, despite its size, Israel produces more start ups than many larger nations. In fact, there are more Israeli companies than European companies listed on the NASDAQ exchange.

Israel is also a nation that cares about the fate of others. Immediately after learning of the devastating earthquake in Haiti this January, Israel sent hundreds of its citizens to treat the injured and search for survivors. The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported after the earthquake that only an estimated 25 Jews lived in Haiti. But, that didn't stop Israel from committing manpower and money to do everything it could to save and preserve all life in Haiti.

Through struggles and achievements both, the United States has stood by Israel's side. Our nations share many of the same values and are partners in an effort to build a better world.

There are those that argue, however, that the United States would be better off if we distanced ourselves from Israel, if we weakened our alliance. I am here to say that this would be the worst thing we could do. The United States and Israel are both stronger when we work together against common threats. Economic and cultural ties between our two nations enrich the lives of Americans and Israelis. Our friendship is important and must remain strong.

Today, on Israel's Independence Day, I commend the people of Israel for their many remarkable achievements, congratulate them as they celebrate their 62nd anniversary of independence, and look forward to many more years of friendship and cooperation between our two nations.

# TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL CARDENAZ

## HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Staff Sergeant Michael Cardenaz, United States Army. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to our country.

SSG Cardenaz was born in Corona, California in 1980. He attended local schools in Corona and loved his hometown. He joined the Army after high school and had been previously deployed twice to both Kosovo and Iraq. On February 20, 2010, SSG Cardenaz had been serving nine months with the 2–12 Infantry, 4th BCT, 4th Infantry Division in Afghanistan when he was killed by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) in Kunar. He was 29 years old.

SSG Cardenaz is remembered fondly by friends and family as an avid Dodger fan who loved fishing, listening to music, visiting new places and making people laugh. He was also an exemplary soldier and had been awarded the Soldier's Medal which is awarded to an Army soldier of the United States who has distinguished himself by an act of heroism involving personal hazard and the voluntary risk of life under conditions not involving actual conflict with an enemy. A fellow service member wrote about an occurrence for which SSG Cardenaz received the Soldier's Medal in Baqubah, Iraq which said:

Cardenaz and his platoon leader . . . risked their lives numerous times underwater trying to save a rolled over humvee with four trapped men inside. At times, both men ingested filthy canal water. They choked, gagged and vomited, only to go back under in attempts to get those men out. It was cold, they were in full kit, neither quit until the bodies were recovered. They were too late, but words can not begin to describe their sense of loyalty to their own. Every soldier should be lucky enough to be around men who never quit to bring them back.

In addition to the Soldier's Medal, SSG Cardenaz also was awarded the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation with Valor. SSG Cardenaz is survived by his wife of seven years, Macarena; five children, Jason, Jasmine, Mariella, Mariliz and Marianna; parents, Miguel and Rosellen Cardenaz; three sisters, Priscilla, Sandra and Monica; brother, Steven; many aunts, uncles, and cousins; one niece and one nephew.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like SSG Cardenaz, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Cardenaz family learned of their husband, father, son and brother's death was probably the hardest day they have ever faced and our thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for SSG Cardenaz's sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words we can offer only begin to convey our deep respect and highest appreciation.

SSG Cardenaz's family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made will never be forgotten.

# RECOGNIZING THE HOWARD COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM 2010 DIVISION I NJCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

## HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Howard College Men's basketball team in Big Spring, Texas, for winning the NJCAA Division I Men's National Championship in 2010.

Led by the Division I Coach of the Year, Mark Adams, the Hawks finished the 2009–2010 season bringing home a National Championship. The championship squad includes Lamont Austin, Moses Sundufu, Dante Menter, Prince Obasi, Shaad O'Garro, Josh Watkins, Jordan Kinnear, Carlos Emory, Virgil Cissoko, Stefan Tica, Joe Bright, Damion McGee, and the Division I Player of the Year, Jae Crowder.

The Howard College Hawks provided NJCAA basketball fans with a memorable comeback in the title game as the Hawks clawed back from a nine point deficit with five minutes to play, forcing an overtime battle against Three Rivers Community College. The Hawks then never trailed, hanging on for the 85–80 victory and the opportunity to be called the NJCAA 2010 National Champions.

I applaud the Hawks' hard work and success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best men's basketball team in the NJCAA Division I. The Howard College Hawks continue to exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success on and off the court. Congratulations, Hawks!

# RECOGNIZING REP. JACK BROWN

## HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rep. Jack Brown of St. Johns, an exemplary public servant and an Arizona icon who is retiring from the Arizona State Legislature after a distinguished career that has spanned four decades.

Rep. Brown was elected to his first stint in the Legislature in 1962, during the Kennedy Administration. A rancher and an Arizona native, Jack Brown has worked tirelessly as an advocate for rural interests. But his leadership and influence—particularly on issues of private property rights, education and parks funding—will be felt across the entire State for generations to come.

Rep. Brown is respected and admired by his colleagues and constituents for his calm manner, good humor, and common sense. Among the many notable examples: Rep. Brown, a lifelong Democrat, worked across party lines with the late Senator Jake Flake and Rep. Bill

Konopnicki, both Republicans, to obtain funding for Northland Pioneer College. The college now has a strong campus presence serving Apache and Navajo counties.

Rep. Brown has held numerous leadership roles in both the Arizona House and the Senate. Currently, he is the Assistant House Minority Leader and previously served eight years in the Senate, where he served as Minority Leader and Floor Leader.

Rep. Brown has been honored numerous times over the years including being named one of the "Modern Arizona Legislature's Shining Stars" by The Arizona Republic in 2008 for his ability to build coalitions and bridge partisan differences.

I take particular pride in honoring Rep. Brown's accomplishments because I had the privilege of working alongside him in the Arizona Senate for eight years. Please join me in congratulating Rep. Brown on his many achievements, on his upcoming retirement, and on the lasting legacy that he leaves the people of Arizona.

#### RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 19TH ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

##### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleague, Congressman JAMES MORAN, to recognize the recipients of the 19th Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. The Best of Reston Awards are presented to individuals, organizations and businesses that have put forth tremendous effort in their commitment to community service and improving the lives of others. Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are recognized at this event for their contributions enriching our community. The Best of Reston Awards are the result of collaboration between Reston Interfaith and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

Reston Interfaith is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing social services to vulnerable individuals in Reston, Herndon and the surrounding area. Their mission is to "promote self-sufficiency through direct support and advocacy for our neighbors in need of food, immediate shelter, affordable housing, quality child care, and other human services." Founded in 1970 with the goal of making housing affordable, Reston Interfaith has grown to serve 13,000 residents and has expanded its service areas to include programs in housing, child care, food services and nutrition, social services, and other critical areas.

Recipients of the 2010 Best of Reston Awards for Community Service are:

Individual Community Members: Imam Mohamed Magid and Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk, Holly Norris, and Emily Ward.

Civic/Community Organization: Reston Historic Trust.

Small Business Leaders: The Virginia Spine Institute and Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.

Corporate Business Leaders: Reston Heights Hotels: The Sheraton Reston Hotel and The Westin Reston Heights.

Fairfax County 2009 First Responder Officers of the Year: Officer Eric R. Glueckert of the Fairfax County Police Department, and Ronald A. McNew and Craig S. Furneisen, Jr. of the Fairfax County Fire Department.

We congratulate the recipients of the 2010 Best of Reston Awards for Community Service as well as Reston Interfaith for its 40 years of work to better the lives of residents throughout the Reston area.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join Rep. MORAN and me in paying tribute to Reston Interfaith and its 2010 honorees for their demonstrated commitment to our community. I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to these individuals for contributing their time and energy to make our community a better place for us all.

#### WORLD MALARIA DAY 2010

##### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of World Malaria Day, which will be commemorated this year on April 25th.

Recently, there has been significant progress in the fight against malaria. The U.S. government provided 15.6 million artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) to treat acute malarial illnesses in 2008 alone. As a result of increased efforts to provide life-saving treatment and prevention efforts, countries like Rwanda and Zambia have achieved great success. In fact, the prevalence of malaria fell by 53 percent in Zambia from 2006 to 2008.

But we cannot afford to stop the fight now. Malaria still causes 350–500 million infections, and kills nearly one million people throughout the world each year, most of whom are young African children.

Malaria also affects families, communities, and countries as a whole. It is estimated that Africa spends nearly 40 percent of all health expenditures on malaria and that the continent loses \$12 billion a year due to the disease; however, no loss is as great as the loss of a loved one. The cultural and socio-economic devastation are incomparable to the grief borne by families who must deal with this terrible disease.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing World Malaria Day and in raising awareness about this disease, so that together we can win the fight against malaria.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

##### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the 62-year history of the State of Israel.

Officially established as an independent nation on May 14, 1948, Israel has grown into a thriving society guided by the philosophy of in-

dividual freedom and remains a shining example of a stable democracy in a volatile region.

Israel's story is much like ours. It is a story of hope, perseverance and a desire for independence. Its people struggled to overcome thousands of years of hardship, and suffered the most horrendous of atrocities to create a proud and vibrant free society in an area of the world where, historically, freedom is all too elusive.

It is our shared belief and dedication to peace and liberty that has solidified our alliance with the most successful democracy in the Middle East. Our nation was the first to recognize the State of Israel, and for more than half a century, Israel and the United States have been strong partners, bound by common values and committed to ensuring freedom throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to offer my ongoing support and friendship to the people of Israel, as they celebrate their independence. I am confident that Israel will continue to flourish and that together, our two nations will continue to be strong allies and partners in promoting peace and individual freedom.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the following Rollcall votes because I was attending to important matters in my Congressional District:

1. Rollcall Vote No. 199, Honoring the coal miners who perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South in Raleigh County, West Virginia, extending condolences to their families and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the mine disaster. If present, I would have voted "aye."

2. Rollcall Vote No. 200, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce taxpayer burdens and enhance taxpayer protections, and for other purposes. If present, I would have voted "aye."

3. Rollcall Vote No. 201, To require an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission. If present, I would have voted "aye."

4. Rollcall Vote No. 202, On Motion to Refer the Resolution. If present, I would have voted "aye."

5. Rollcall Vote No. 203, Expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010. If present, I would have voted "aye."

6. Rollcall Vote No. 204, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4715), Clean Estuaries Act of 2010 and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. If present, I would have voted "aye."

7. Rollcall Vote No. 205, Recognizing the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest, and for other purposes. If present, I would have voted "aye."