of planaria. The student will be competing in the International Science Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles, California, in May. The next student, a junior, will also be competing at the end of my visit, Superintendent Patricia Taylor was awarded the Discovery Education online science module, which is used throughout the district in the middle schools. He explained that the program is used to let the students learn science material.

At the end of my visit, Superintendent Patricia Taylor was awarded the Discovery Education Visionary District Award by the Vice President for Discovery Education. I am proud to have such an outstanding school in my district. I congratulate the school for recognizing the importance of providing our youth with the tools to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 10, 2011, I unfortunately missed a series of meetings with Korean government officials, including the Cultural and Educational Advisor for Korea on the visit to the Korean government for the opportunity to visit Korea was a truly eye-opening experience for me.

In addition to meeting with Korean executive branch officials—including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Sung-Hwan Kim, Deputy Minister for Trade Seok-Young Choi, and National Security Advisor Yung-Woo Chun—I was also able to meet with our legislative counterparts in the Korean National Assembly, including the chairman of the Unification, Foreign Affairs, and Trade Committee (the equivalent of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs), the Honorable Kyung-Pil Nam.

All of these meetings were informative, productive, and educational. I learned so much about the history and the breadth and scope of the U.S.-Korea alliance partnership.

Meetings with business leaders were equally fruitful. It was my pleasure to attend a dinner hosted by AMCHAM, the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea, and I am grateful for the time I was able to spend with Amy Jackson, the AMCHAM president.

Similarly, a tour of the Hyundai Motors corporate headquarters and of the company’s research and development facility in Hwaseong was particularly valuable. Hyundai has significant investment in the United States, including several engineering and design facilities in California, not far from Los Angeles, as well as in several other states. If one includes all of their dealerships and repair shops, Hyundai employs over 30,000 American workers.

One of the topics that came up over and over during my visit to Korea was the much discussed trade agreement between our two countries. The Korean government officials and business leaders met with me to discuss the agreement. I was pleased to learn that the agreement should be ratified soon. It is an issue I continue to follow closely, seeking insights and analysis from a range of perspectives within my congressional district and beyond. This visit to Korea further expanded my horizons and the knowledge gained was invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Korean Government for the opportunity to visit Korea and to extend my personal thanks to the Korean people and the government of Korea for their hospitality and for their country through the Congressional Member Exchange Program. Prior to my departure, I had the opportunity to have breakfast with Korea’s Ambassador to the U.S., Duk-Soo Han, and our discussion was very insightful with respect to all the challenges and opportunities on the Korean peninsula. As I represent the congressional district with the largest Korean-American constituency in the United States, I also look forward to returning to Korea to continue building on the relationship with our great friend and ally.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JOHN P. SARBADES
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. SARBADES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Israeli Independence Day. Sixty-three years ago this week, the dream of so many Jewish people around the world became a reality. From desert and swampland emerged a nation that is now the leader in technology, medical advances and environmental research; and from the ashes of the Holocaust, a people was reborn.

Israel remains an important strategic ally and the only true democracy in a very unstable part of the world. In the wake of World War II and its tragic legacy for the Jewish people, the United States has considered the existence of Israel a profound moral and spiritual imperative and was the first nation to recognize the state of Israel in 1948.

Even sixty-three years later, however, there are ongoing threats to Israel’s stability. It is critical that all parties in the region recognize Israel’s right to exist as well as Israel’s right to self-defense. Father Weezorak is the son of a police officer who keep the hope for peace in the forefront