of those, participating states have made solemn, tangible commitments to put our words into action. In some countries, progress has indeed been made, yet the scope and outcome of anti-Semitic acts have not abated in others, and in some nations it has actually gotten worse.

That is why we are here today, to review, re-commit, and re-energize efforts to vanquish the highly disturbing resurgence of anti-Semitism everywhere, including in Europe.

Unparalleled since the dark ages of the Second World War, Jewish communities on a global scale are facing verbal harassment, and sometimes violent attacks against synagogues, Jewish cultural sites, cemeteries and individuals. It is an ugly reality that won't go away by ignoring or wishing it away. It must be defeated.

Thus, we gather to enlighten, motivate, and share ideas on how not just to mitigate this centuries-old obsession, but to crush this pernicious form of hate.

From our first panel of witnesses we heard how anti-Semitism directly threatens not only Jews but also Christians and Muslims, and democracy and civil society. When we fight anti-Semitism it is not only a matter of justice for Jewish fellow-citizens, but also of standing up for Christianity, and for Islam, and for the possibility of decent living itself. We all have a direct stake in the fight against anti-Semitism.

This is tragically clear in the Middle-Eastern countries where the government propagates anti-Semitism as an official or quasi-official ideology. These governments incite anti-Semitic hatred of Israel in order to distract the people from their own tyrannical rule, from their own abuse of human rights, denial of democracy, economic corruption. Sadly, it works. We see this in governments as varied as those of Iran and Egypt, Pakistan and Syria and Saudi Arabia, and the list doesn't end there.

Tens of millions of people who live in these countries are in this sense suffering from anti-Semitism. Few of them are Jewish—most are Muslim, millions are Christian. It's true that, to some degree or other, many of the people in these countries have bought into the evil of anti-Semitism, but many have not.

From our second panel, we heard reports from a number of European Jewish leaders who will be able to tell us about anti-Semitism in their countries, how the governments are responding, and whether these responses are effective. Sadly, in much of Europe, the harassment of Jews, including verbal and physical violence, continues to increase, and a recent Anti-Defamation League study shows that anti-Semitic attitudes are widespread in Europe and getting worse in many countries.

One thing the witnesses will address is whether elected officials are fulfilling their responsibility to speak out publicly against any expressions of anti-Semitic hate. When national leaders fail to denounce anti-Semitic violence and slurs, the void is not only demoralizing to the victims but silence actually enables the wrongdoing. Silence by elected officials in particular conveys approval—or at least acquiescence—and can contribute to a climate of fear and a sense of vulnerability.

In this respect, I want to recognize the leadership Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has shown in the fight against anti-Semitism. Prime Minister Orbán has taken his government into the vanguard of those fighting anti-Semitism in Europe. He has declared a 'zero tolerance policy' against anti-Semitism and seen that anti-Semitic incidents are promptly followed by high-level official condemnations, sometimes by him, sometimes by other officials. There is still far too much anti-Semitism in Hungary, and it is cultivated by the viciously racist Jobbik political party. But I am glad that the Hungarian government has responded vigorously, protecting its Jewish citizens by strengthening legislation and law enforcement, education and Holocaust remembrance.

Another point we considered is whether the countries are collecting reliable hate crime information. We can't fight anti-Semitic crimes effectively unless we have reliable information on them. The most recent figures from the U.S., for example, which are collected by the FBI, showed that Jews, less than 2% of the U.S. population, are the victims of 63% of religiously-targeted hate crimes.

An additional concern is the importance of Holocaust education. If we are to protect our children from the dark evil of anti-Semitism, we must reeducate ourselves and systematically educate our children. While that starts in our homes, the classroom must be the incubator of tolerance. It seems to me that only the most hardened racist can remain unmoved by Holocaust education and remembrance. Only the most crass, evil, and prejudiced among us can study the horrors of the Holocaust and not cry out: Never again!

Yet another concern is the rise of a "new" anti-Semitism, which tries to pass itself off as legitimate criticism of Israel, but which demonizes, delegitimizes, and applies double standards against Israel—former Soviet "refusenik" Natan Sharansky's "3 Ds." In any case, this form of anti-Semitism appears to be spreading among European social-democratic and leftist parties, as well as among Muslim immigrants from the Middle East, and I'd like to hear your views about the most effective ways to expose it for what it is.

We need to work together with you to light a fire under our government, under European governments, and intergovernmental organizations like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

I am preparing to re-introduce the Combating Anti-Semitism Act; another possible initiative is for a day on which heads of state or government can each visit a major synagogue in their national capitals and make a statement on threat that anti-Semitism poses to all of us.

HONORING THE TOWN OF NEW WINDSOR, NEW YORK'S SESTERCENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the sestercentennial celebration of the Town of New Windsor, New York, which was established on April 5, 1763. Throughout the past two and half centuries, the town has witnessed and participated in numerous events that have shaped our nation's history.

Since the 1600s, it has been New Windsor's natural beauty along the breathtaking views of the Hudson River that has attracted its earliest residents. From the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the majority of Town residents supported the war efforts and its leaders, like General George Washington, and welcomed thousands of men, women and children from many states. New Windsor also proudly served as the major encampment for the Continental Army. While the army was based there in 1782, General Washington ordered the establishment of the highest military honor, the Badge of Merit—now known as the Purple Heart. That important history lives on today through the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, located in New Windsor.

Mr. Speaker, this sestercentennial celebration is for all the people of New Windsor, both past and present, whose character define this historical community and have preserved its many remarkable qualities to be enjoyed by residents and visitors today. That is precisely why I am proud to recognize this special event and have the opportunity to represent New Windsor in the United States House of Representatives.

"GAUGING AMERICAN PORT SECURITY" OR GAPS ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the lessons of 9/11 have taught us that we must continuously be vigilant in proactively seeking out and preventing our country's most pressing threats. That is why after 9/11, Congress began to shine a spotlight on previously ignored issues such as border security, airport security and strengthening identification procedures. However, an area that continues to be ignored is port security.

In the U.S., tens of thousands of ships each year make over 50,000 calls on U.S. ports. These ships carry the bulk of the approximately two billion tons of freight, three billion tons of oil transports, and 134 million passengers by ferry each year.

The volume of traffic gives terrorists opportunities to smuggle themselves or their weapons into the United States with little risk of detection. According to a report by the Council on Foreign Relations, in May 2002 there were reports that twenty-five Islamist extremists entered the United States by hiding in shipping containers.

This highlights the need for an immediate legislative solution to counter this problem. However, it is difficult to come up with an effective solution without first knowing all of the potential dangers.

That is why I am reintroducing the Gauging American Port Security (GAPS) Act. The GAPS Act addresses these problems by requiring that the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General report to Congress on the current weaknesses and vulnerabilities of U.S. ports and ensures that DHS develops a comprehensive plan for addressing them. Only by focusing on the specific dangers that threaten our port security, can we develop effective solutions to ensure our nation is prepared for any and all types of attacks.

IN HONOR OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL, WEYMOUTH, MA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sacred Heart School in recognition of its one hundred years of educating the children of Weymouth and Braintree, Massachusetts.

Sacred Heart School was founded in 1913 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph at the request of Father John B. Holland. The school had a humble beginning with thirty-three first graders who were taught in the dining room of the convent under the direction of Sister Margaret Mary.

Today, Sacred Heart School serves over 260 students. Though it is now staffed by an all-lay faculty, the qualities of the Sisters of Saint Joseph live on through the commitment and dedication of the teachers.

Mister Speaker, the Sacred Heart School is committed to developing the whole child, in mind, body, and spirit, by integrating a strong academic program with a distinctly Catholic education; as a result, Sacred Heart students consistently score above the average on standardized tests. Community service is also an important component of a Sacred Heart education and the commitment to that service helps students develop a strong sense of civic engagement and lifelong sensitivities to improving the welfare of others.

A strong bond between the parish and school has long been a trademark of Sacred Heart. When a fire destroyed Sacred Heart Church in December of 2005, the school and parish communities came together to support one another during the difficult rebuilding process.

Another important trademark of Sacred Heart School is the level of parental involvement. Through the school's Home and School Volunteer Program, parents contribute nearly seven thousand hours of direct service to the school each year, which allows the school to offer a variety of academic and social programs for students.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with the Sacred Heart School community in celebrating one hundred years of Catholic education.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 9, 2013, I unfortunately missed three votes, which included rollcall votes 90, 91 and 92.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 90.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 91.

Lastly, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 92.

HONORING THE FRANK O'HARA ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the organization The Frank O'Hara Association, located in West Orange, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 80th Anniversary.

Frank O'Hara came from humble beginnings in the town of Boggaun in Ballinamore, County Leitrim, Ireland. He was born in 1900 as one of fifteen children. Typical of most young Irishmen of his day, Frank O'Hara fought as part of the Leitrim Brigade for a free Ireland after the 1916 Easter uprising. He was held prisoner in Athlone barracks until he escaped by scaling a wall.

Frank O'Hara immigrated to America in the 1920s with just a primary school education, but a drive to succeed. While working with the Hudson Tubes (now PATH) and Prudential Insurance Company, he opened a speak-easy on Bergen Street, Newark. After prohibition was repealed in 1933, Frank O'Hara opened a tavern on Central Avenue, Newark. Later, in 1932, he married Louise O'Kane, a fellow native of Ireland who shared his deep faith and devotion to family. They became parents to nine children, and thirty grandchildren. Today there are now fifty-five great-grandchildren as well as two great-great-grandchildren, and the family continues to grow.

In 1933, the Frank O'Hara Association was founded in Newark, organized by its first President, Raymond Mulhern, to act as an organization representing Irish culture and values. Frank O'Hara was one of the co-founders of the Newark Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 1936. He moved his family to West Orange in 1941, and opened a tavern and liquor store in the Pleasantdale section of town in 1948. Frank O'Hara pioneered the Irish movement in West Orange and co-founded the Irish American Society of West Orange, which became the present Irish American Society of the Oranges. He also co-founded the West Orange Saint Patrick's Day Parade. During the 1950's, Frank O'Hara aided numerous Irishmen, sponsoring their entry to the United States, which was a requirement at the time. He actively fundraised for many years on behalf of Salesian Missions, and as a result of his efforts and contributions, a Mission Church was built in the Philippines, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. He was a parishioner and benefactor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in West Orange, as well as a benefactor for both Our Lady of the Lake Church in Verona and Queen of Angels Church in Newark.

Though Frank O'Hara passed away over 40 years ago, the products of his life, faith, principals, and labor continue to flourish. The Frank O'Hara Association remains one of the oldest active Irish organizations in New Jersey, cultivating the strong Irish heritage and family traditions that Frank O'Hara and his wife Louise stood for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Frank O'Hara Association as they celebrate their 80th anniversary.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM KAPLAN

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Kaplan, an inspirational individual who has selflessly served our community in the Hudson Valley.

Mr. Kaplan is the founder of the Elaine and William Kaplan Family Foundations, which concentrates on supporting innovative and sustainable projects primarily in the Newburgh area. He has made a tremendous impact on countless organizations in our community including Mount St. Mary College, St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, Hospice of Orange, The Greater Hudson Valley Health Center, Occupations, Inc., McQuade Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh, and Orange County Community College. Mr. Kaplan has provided scholarships to help students have to opportunity to attend college.

Mr. Kaplan frequently donates his time and resources in his tireless pursuit to better our community. His philanthropic contributions to his neighbors in the Hudson Valley have led to the betterment of our education system, local infrastructure, and community programs.

Throughout the years, Mr. Kaplan has been recognized for these accomplishments among many others. This week, he is recognized by the Orange County Human Rights Commission as a Human Rights award recipient.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Kaplan and his continued commitment and service to our Hudson Valley community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MELANIE DRESSEL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Melanie Dressel of Tacoma for receiving the 2013 Executive Excellence Award for CEO of the Year from Seattle Business Magazine. Dressel is the President and CEO of Columbia Bank and Columbia Banking System, Inc.

The Executive Excellence Award honors leaders in Washington State who demonstrate exceptional leadership and communication skills in the workplace, inspiring their employees to apply themselves and do their best.

Dressel began her career at Columbia Bank nearly 18 years ago. She, along with the Columbia Bank team, created a unique banking system. The new local bank offered programs that big banks provided, such as private banking and cash management, while adopting small-town values and quality customer service. These services enhanced the perception of banking, making Columbia Bank one of the most popular and successful banks in the Northwest.

Under Dressel, Columbia Bank not only expanded, but also endured the financial crisis with ease. Dressel said that by making smart