

that my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ISRAEL'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the state of Israel and its people on the 66th anniversary of Israel's founding.

Israel is the only stable democracy in the Middle East and the United States' closest ally and friend. Our relationship, built on trust, shared values and a common experience, serves to advance the cause of democracy and freedom worldwide.

Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. It has been the spiritual center for Jews for thousands of years. In recent years, Israel has become a hub of technology and innovation. In 66 short years, the Jewish people have built a thriving economy in the shadow of their ancient ruins.

Last month, I stood at the Babi Yar memorial in Ukraine. Alone at the site of a massacre with only a yahrtzeit candle flickering, where Einsatzgruppen killed tens of thousands of Jews, I reflected on my heritage. My four grandparents were from Ukraine, and I've often thought that if it weren't for their foresight in leaving Ukraine when they did, I would never have been born. I reflected on the thousands who have been killed because of their faith.

While Israel was not founded because of the Holocaust, the Holocaust is a powerful reminder of what the world could look like without a safe haven for the Jewish people. Israel is its own protector and the United States must stand with Israel as Israel seeks to defend itself against existential threats.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we also remember those who have fallen in service to their country. I am proud to stand here in celebration of the freedoms that Israel stands for.

SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chair, today I rise in support of the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 10. I believe it is imperative that America provide high-quality public education so that our students can succeed and compete in the global economy. I am a strong supporter of public education, from early education programs such as Head Start and Pre-K to higher edu-

cation and career and technical education. As we look to improve educational outcomes, we cannot overlook the promise of innovative teaching practices and charter schools.

This new authorization of the Charter School Program makes important improvements to the existing charter school framework. In particular, I support provisions to aid in the dissemination of best practices from charter schools to other public schools, and the updated language that helps extend the reach of charter schools into communities that are currently underserved, including minorities and those with special needs.

However, the underlying bill is not perfect. While one of the founding ideas behind charter schools is to reduce red tape and let educators take the reins, there have been worrying reports of gross mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds by some charter school staff, which requires some attention. I think the amendment offered by Representative CASTOR goes some way to addressing this issue, which would require the Department of Education to develop and publish regulations addressing conflicts of interest surrounding charter schools.

In addition, I support the amendments offered by Representative JACKSON LEE and Representative BONAMICI respectively, which would increase the information available to parents and the public related to attendance of charter schools, and the efforts in disseminating and implementing best practices across the public school spectrum.

There is more work to be done improving our education system, but we must be mindful not to create a two-tiered public school system. I hope H.R. 10 provides the intended improvements to charter schools, and the public education system as a whole.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL AS- SOCIATION OF POLICE OFFICERS' 2014 TOP COPS WINNERS FROM MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-one law enforcement officers from Massachusetts honored by the National Association of Police Officers' 2014 Top Cops Award.

These brave officers have gone well beyond the call of duty in order to protect our citizens and keep us safe. I am proud to know that these officers are working to protect us and would like to express my gratitude for their service by presenting their names:

Boston Police Department: Police Officer Omar Borges, Detective Kenneth M. Conley, Police Officer Gregory R. Eunis, Police Officer Jarrod Gero, Police Officer Jean Gerard JeanLouis, Detective John B. Joyce, Police Officer Terence Long, Police Officer Gregory McCormick, Police Officer Richard G. Moriarty, Police Officer John Moynihan, Police Officer John M. Noberini, Police Officer Jason A. Nuñez, Police Officer Scott Pulchansingh, Detective Joseph G. Scaringello, Police Officer Dennis O. Simmonds, Police Officer Walter J. Suprey, and Sergeant Detective Kevin E. Waggett.

Massachusetts State Police: Trooper Christopher J. Dumont.

Watertown Police Department: Police Officer Miguel A. Colon, Jr.; Police Officer Michael W. Comick; Sergeant John C.P. MacLellan; Police Officer Timothy B. Menton; Sergeant Jeffrey J. Pugliese; Police Officer Joseph Reynolds, and Police Officer Jean S. Sarkissian.

Many of these officers were on duty during the Boston Marathon bombings last year, and the search for the perpetrators that followed the bombings. These courageous men embody the best ideals of our country, and have dedicated their lives to our security.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize these officers and the incredible work they have done in the past year, and, indeed, every day. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing these officers and their role in protecting our citizens.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would make a simple modification to the Civil Monetary Penalty Law. The modification will ensure that physicians and hospitals can align incentives, which is especially important since they are being called upon to do this more often in the pursuit of providing improved care at a lower cost. In the movement to replace fee for service medicine with a model that emphasizes quality, this legislation will facilitate relationships that will allow movement in this direction. The modification will ensure that the penalties for the Civil Monetary Penalty Law are fully retained; the modification makes no change to the penalties prescribed under the law. However, the modification will allow hospitals and physicians to enter into relationships designed to decrease the provision of medically unnecessary services. This legislation recognizes that in the new delivery system models, the emphasis should be on reducing the provision of medically unnecessary services for patients. After all, such services do not serve the patient—who may suffer from hospital acquired infections, if kept in the hospital longer than necessary, for example. Such services also are not in furtherance of the goal of operating a more efficient, higher quality health care system. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING MAYOR PETER A. CANTU'S 40TH YEAR IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and accomplishments of Mayor Peter A. Cantu, who has served with distinction as a member of the governing body of Plainsboro, New Jersey for the past 40 years and has been a leader in municipal governance for the entire state of New Jersey.

Peter Cantu was a teenager when his family relocated to Plainsboro over 50 years ago. At