

many Ethiopian Jews who were among the tens of thousands saved by Israel when they were airlifted to the Democratic Jewish State.

While I was back in Florida's Legislature, Israel reached yet another critical peace agreement, this time with Jordan, demonstrating once again Israel's enduring commitment to ending conflict.

I remember facing many challenges in my next role as Mayor of West Palm Beach but none compared to the daily barrage of terror attacks Israelis suffered during the Second Intifada.

And over the last few years, while I have served in the House of Representatives, Israel has accomplished so much even while faced with the constant threat of rocket attacks from Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah terror in Lebanon, spill-over from the war in Syria, attacks from Sinai in Egypt, and the ire of a possible nuclear Iran.

Since its founding Israel has been at a near perpetual state of war, yet the resilience of Israeli people has allowed the nation to thrive and contribute so much to the community of nations.

In a tiny country where 60 percent of the land mass is desert, Israelis invented drip irrigation to make the desert bloom with vineyards and vegetable farms. They now share that technology with countries in Africa facing water scarcity where millions more people are being fed by cutting water use over 90 percent.

Israel also perfected seawater desalination which it is sharing today with California to help them during their drought. In fact, an Israeli company is helping to build what will become the largest desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere just north of San Diego.

Israel at 67 is a world leader in medicine, technology, defense, and energy. It is a country with whom the United States has partnered since President Harry Truman recognized the nascent state just minutes after its founding. And Israel is a country with whom we continue to partner because it represents freedom, democracy, and progress in a region where tyranny too often reigns.

As we celebrate more birthdays together in the future, I will do all I can to ensure Israel continues to flourish as a Jewish and democratic state, and that the bond between our two nations never falters.

Yom Huledet Sameach, happy 67th birthday to our enduring ally Israel.

INMAN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TREY GOWDY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mount Calvary Baptist Church was formed July 28, 1865, with 19 charter members led by Pastor I. L. West; and

Whereas, after several name changes in 1915 the name was changed to its present name, Inman First Baptist Church; and

Whereas, Inman First Baptist Church continues to be one of the leading churches in Inman, South Carolina, and under the leadership of Dr. Paul Moore the congregation continues to be active and enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, Inman First Baptist Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and this anniversary celebration will draw former and current members to Inman, South Carolina, to participate in this momentous milestone in the history of their church;

Now therefore, be it resolved that I, TREY GOWDY, do congratulate the members of Inman First Baptist Church in recognition of their 150th anniversary and thank them for their unwavering commitment, dedication, and contributions to Spartanburg County and to the Fourth Congressional District of South Carolina.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S 1975 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP LACROSSE TEAM AND COACH BUDDY BEARDMORE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of the 40th anniversary of The University of Maryland Men's National Championship Lacrosse Team of 1975. And it's distinguished Coach Buddy Beardmore, and his players and coaches, and trainer Jim Weir who has since passed. Buddy brought two National Championship titles to Maryland, with his now famous "Be the Best" ethos, and brought the lacrosse world into the modern day age, with his weight training, running, and tactics both on and off the field. Their speed and strength and power were something to behold, and they are the benchmark by which any great team is measured today.

"Be the Best"

Now beat Hopkins guys!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with Armenians throughout the United States, Armenia, and the world in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. This past week, members and friends of the Armenian community gathered to remember April 24, 1915, when the arrest and murder of 200 Armenian politicians, academics, and community leaders in Constantinople marked the beginning of an eight-year campaign of extermination against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire.

Between 1915 and 1923, approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed and over 500,000 more were exiled to the desert to die of thirst or starvation. The Armenian genocide was the first mass murder of the 20th century, a century that was sadly to be marked by many similar attempts at racial or ethnic extermination, from the Holocaust to the Rwandan genocide to Darfur, Sudan.

As we solemnly remember the victims of this tragedy, let us also celebrate the extraordinary strength and spirit of the Armenian people, who have fought successfully to preserve their culture and identity for over a thousand years. They overcame the horrors of genocide, two world wars, and decades of Soviet dominance in order to establish modern Armenia. In addition, the vibrant Armenian diaspora continues to thrive and around the world.

It is only by acknowledging and learning from the past that we can build a future free of racial, ethnic, and religious hate and violence. By remembering the Armenian genocide and speaking out against all such atrocities, we can live up to the promise made to all those who suffered of "never again."

CONGRATULATING THE EL MONTE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EL MONTE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the El Monte Union High School District of El Monte, California for receiving the 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School and District Sustainability Award. El Monte Union High School District was one of just 14 school districts across the country chosen to receive such an award and I am honored to represent them.

The Green Ribbon award recognizes schools and districts that shine in three areas of environmental sustainability. These three areas are: reducing utility cost and environmental impact, improving the environmental health on campus including fitness and nutrition, and offering effective sustainability educational programs. Schools and districts must excel in all three areas in order to receive the award.

We have a moral obligation to protect our environment. Every one of us should be chipping in to help preserve our planet. I am immensely proud to represent a school district that has taken this to a new level. The students, parents, and faculty members should be proud of themselves for their hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the El Monte Union High School District, and the other schools and districts across the country who've received this year's Green Ribbon School Award. Thank you all for doing your part to preserve our planet.