

heavenly Jerusalem that is being denied by the West's tenacious enemies. How moving that the American Embassy is relocated from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Israel's capital, on May 14, 2018, exactly 70 years following Jewish independence. It is a poignant reminder that President Harry Truman was the first world leader to recognize the new state, only eleven minutes following Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's delivering the Declaration of Independence of a redeemed people. It was Jewish history's greatest hour after the Holocaust's lowest mark. Venomous anti-Semitism is on an alarming resurgence in the United States and particularly in Europe, home of the Holocaust. Poland regrettably attempts through a new punitive law to distance itself from the painful truth that there were far more Poles who collaborated in the merciless destruction of Jewish lives than those righteous Poles who sacrificially rose up to protect their assaulted Jewish neighbors, including my own family, who had lived in their midst for a thousand years!

The Syrian tragedy weighs heavily on Israel whose people emerged from the Holocaust, with both Jews and Syrians abandoned by a callous world. The gassing with impunity of innocent Syrian civilians, including children, so close to Israel as Syria's civil war is into its seventh year, is most revolting. Israel reaching out to medically save over four thousand Syrians is praiseworthy. I concur with Rabbi Israel Lau asking Israel to even do more for Syria's suffering people. He is Israel's former chief rabbi, currently chairman of Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust World Center Council and the youngest survivor at age eight of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. Much is demanded though not all can be expected from a now powerful but still vulnerable people enduring the unfathomable and facing a complex Middle East scenario. President Trump's order to send fifty-nine Tomahawk missiles toward a Syrian air base was appreciated. The most recent airstrikes by the U.S., U.K. and France at Syria's illegal chemical weapons operation in light of the Syrian lethal chemical attack in Douma, is encouraging. How could Russia be complicit in Bashar's genocidal machine when losing over twenty million Russians under Nazi Germany? The presence of the USS Bush Carrier homeported in Norfolk, Virginia which I witnessed, on July 4, 2017 in Haifa, Israel, following the bombing of ISIS targets in Syria, was reassuring.

May Israel's significant anniversary of a tumultuous homecoming usher in renewed hope that its founders' inspiring naïveté of being welcomed and appreciated for their pioneering efforts in a problematic region, yet bear good fruit for all."

PICOCYL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor PICOCYL for being recognized as the 2017 Business Recognition Award winner by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC).

The Business Recognition Award shows appreciation for a local company who has shown exceptional growth in primary employment, sales and/or capital investments in the last year. PICOCYL designs, develops and manufactures very small compressed gas cylinders

for drug delivery systems, self-injection devices, and the delivery of medical gases. Their patented pic-o cylinders feature accurate and consistent gas fill levels, extremely low puncture forces, and precision sealing surfaces. PICOCYL's proprietary manufacturing systems and processes have earned their position as the sole global provider of such components to the Life Sciences industry.

Congratulations to PICOCYL for this well-deserved award, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PHILADELPHIA PROGRAM OF VITAS HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize all the volunteers with the Philadelphia Program of VITAS Healthcare, who graciously give their time and talents serving neighbors in need throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania.

VITAS Healthcare has been a pioneer in hospice care since 1978 and has the distinction of being the nation's largest provider of end-of-life care. The Philadelphia Program of VITAS launched in 1993 and currently operates three in-patient units serving the five-county Philadelphia region.

More than 60 volunteers in the Philadelphia Program serve a vital role in helping VITAS Healthcare deliver quality care and support to more than 200 hospice patients and their families every day. Volunteers of all ages and from diverse backgrounds carry out a variety of tasks, ranging from running errands and placing reassuring phone calls to spending quality time with hospice patients in their homes, hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

VITAS will honor these outstanding volunteers during an annual luncheon on April 28, 2018. The event is part of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, which was established by President Richard Nixon in 1974 to highlight the invaluable contributions of all volunteers and the incredible difference they make in the lives of those they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in expressing our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers with the Philadelphia Program of VITAS Healthcare for their selfless service to individuals and communities in southeastern Pennsylvania. May their exemplary dedication and generous spirit inspire all to give back to others and strengthen our communities through volunteerism.

TRIBUTE TO A'JA WILSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding young lady and great South Carolinian, Ms. A'ja Wilson. Ms. Wilson is a student at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, South Carolina. USC's athletic teams are nicknamed the "Fighting

Gamecocks," and A'ja is a member of the Gamecock's women basketball team.

During her tenure at USC, A'ja played in 138 games, averaged 17.3 points per game, had 8.7 rebounds and blocked 2.6 shots per game. In 2017, Ms. Wilson led the Gamecocks to their first ever NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and was named the Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

This year, A'ja was named the Southeastern Conference's (SEC) Player of the Year for the 3rd consecutive year, and led the Gamecocks to a record 4th straight SEC Tournament Championship. She also became the all-time leading scorer in USC women's basketball history and was a consensus first-team All-American for the 3rd consecutive season.

A'ja was named 1st team All-SEC all four of her years at USC. She has swept every one of the National Player of the Year awards as the best player in women's college basketball in 2018. Last week, A'ja capped off her college athletic career by becoming the first player drafted by the Women National Basketball Association (WNBA).

A'ja Wilson was born in Hopkins, South Carolina to Roscoe and Eva Wilson. She graduated from Heathwood Hall Episcopal High School in Columbia and led the school to the state championship as a senior in 2014. Perhaps more important than her statistics; A'ja Wilson has been a leader for her teams—both on and off the court—and in her community.

USC's President Dr. Harris Pastides, Athletics Director Ray Tanner and Women's Head Coach Dawn Staley have all praised A'ja the person as well as A'ja the player. President Pastides recently told The State newspaper, "A'ja [is] the person who never turned down an autograph, a selfie, a high five . . . A'ja has never said no to anybody, and that is because she loves this community, she loves the fans."

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Dr. Pastides, and I hasten to add that the basketball fans and citizens of her hometown and state love her back.

H.R. 2901, TO MAKE PERMANENT VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2901, to make permanent the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) matching grant program.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program assists low-to-moderate income, elderly, disabled, and limited English speaking taxpayers in preparing and filing their federal income tax returns.

Since fiscal year 2008, Congress has used the appropriations process to provide funding for the Community VITA matching grants program for tax return preparation assistance.

But Congress has not authorized the VITA program to receive grants through the tax-writing process.

This bill puts the VITA grant program on more solid, permanent, and predictable footing.