

communicate and to support humanitarian causes.

She graduated from high school with the best school rating average and obtained a bachelor's degree in communications from Central University of Venezuela. Her graduation project was the creation of a community digital newspaper, which received a distinguished mention.

In 2015, Alibeth moved to the U.S. She started attending English classes with the Orange County Library System. Today, she is bilingual and works as a Questline Reference Assistant and has been with the libraries for 4 years.

She is a Library Ambassador, promoting different classes, events, and programs. In the last 2 years, she has spoken to around 20,000 people about library resources and created the idea of a radio show called Portada in Mas 100.7 FM to express in English and Spanish the different options the library offers, especially to the Hispanic community.

Currently, with about 50 shows aired and 31 guests interviewed, Alibeth continues to open new bridges for the community to learn, grow, and connect.

She is planning a project for Hispanics to help better understand the need to save the planet and be grateful about how the U.S. is a land of opportunities.

She acts as media coordinator for Casa de Venezuela Orlando, where she is helping in the process of collecting and shipping medical supplies to Venezuela in the cause for freedom and restoring democracy, as well as assisting fellow immigrants, especially lobbying for a bipartisan bill to approve temporary protective status for Venezuelans, a bill that I had the honor of passing through this Chamber last month.

At present, Alibeth lives in Orange County, Florida, and is a proud constituent of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, for that, we honor Alibeth Suarez.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone for joining me tonight on this Special Order.

In August, my colleagues and I traveled to Israel with the United States-Israel Education Association, and tonight we wanted to share with you about our trip. I am joined by BRADLEY BYRNE from Alabama, ANN WAGNER from Missouri, and Dr. PHIL ROE from Tennessee.

Through the years, the USIEA has led Members of Congress behind the

Green Line, so into the West Bank, in Judea and Samaria.

Tonight we wanted to share with you some of what we saw, what we learned, witnessing the economic cooperation and integrated businesses between Palestinian and Israeli business leaders. It is really an untold story. It is an untold story, one that includes the story of hope and opportunity.

For me, it was my first trip to Israel since being named the United States Representative to the U.N., and it renewed my strong commitment to ensure that America remains a bipartisan, steadfast, and staunch supporter of Israel.

Tonight we are going to get started with my friend and colleague from Alabama, BRADLEY BYRNE, to share about the trip.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) both for giving me this time, but also for her leadership on this and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, beside me is a photograph of myself; Avi Zimmerman, who is the head of the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce, an Israeli Jew; Sheik Ashraf Jabari, a Palestinian businessman; the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS); the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER); and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mrs. WAGNER and Dr. ROE joined Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS and me on this incredible trip. We are standing in the Sheik's home in Hebron. The Sheik is a former security adviser to the Palestinian Authority, an incredible businessman.

Now, before I get back to that meeting, I want to make sure that we begin to make clear to everybody in America that much of what we have learned or believed we have learned about what is going on in Israel between Israelis and Palestinians is not true.

What we learned, both from Sheik Jabari and from others, is that something new and exciting is happening between the Israelis and the Palestinians in Israel.

There is this idea out there that the Israelis and the Palestinians have been fighting one another for years. That is not true.

The truth of the matter is, after the Romans expelled most of the Jews from Israel in the first and second century AD, there remained a small number of Jews in what was known as Israel and then later on as the Province of Palestine. Then over the years, some would creep back in, but there was a relatively small number of Jews in that land, and they lived in peace with their Arab neighbors.

It wasn't until the 20th century, when large numbers of Jews began to move into that area from Europe and the U.S. and other places, that we began to see some clashes between the Arabs that lived in that area and the Jews that were moving there.

In 1948, when Israel proclaimed itself to be a State, there was an unfortunate war between them, their Arab neighbors, and many of the Arab countries that surrounded them.

As a result of that, a State was formed with true territories, but there was a problem between Israel and Jordan, which was one of the countries that they fought, and in order to decide who lived where, they took a green pen and wrote on a map a line, and it was called the Green Line. Jordan existed, or had control, on the east side of that Green Line, Israel on the west.

A second unfortunate war occurred in 1967, the Six-Day War, which many of us remember. As a result of that war, Israel was able to take control of all of the area that is now within Israel on the east side of the Green Line.

Those two wars and what came out of them is where a lot of the problems between the Palestinians and the Israelis started. It is not ancient, it is not built into their genes. It is not something that can't be overcome.

So let me go back to this picture. Avi Zimmerman, as I said, is an Israeli Jew, and Sheik Jabari is a Palestinian Muslim standing next to one another in his home in Hebron.

We actually heard from them and other Israelis and other Palestinians about their desires and their efforts to work together in business and industry and economics. It is bringing people together.

The day before we visited the Sheik, we were in a town in the northern part of Israel—in what Israel calls Samaria—called Ariel. In Ariel, there are two parts, two industrial parts, that have 209 different manufacturing companies in them. Most of the people working in those manufacturing factories are Palestinians, and they make on average four times as much as they could make if they were working somewhere else in what we, unfortunately, call the West Bank, but is really not the West Bank.

It is good for those Palestinians to make that much money. It is good for them to be able to take advantage of the miracle of the Israeli economy. Giving them that opportunity so that they can have a better life for themselves and their families is hope.

Sheik Jabari and what he is trying to do is hope.

What the people in Israel need more than anything else is hope.

Perhaps our struggles over the last 20 years to create a two-state solution there has blinded us from the fact that this is really about people. It is not about lines drawn on a piece of paper that we can't seem to get a resolution to.

□ 1815

Those people, if they are allowed to live and work together as they want to, maybe they will find peace on their own without some push from the rest of us, which seems to be getting us nowhere.

At any rate, I hope that we, in this country, and we, in this Congress, can do everything in our power to help these good people grow economically in their businesses, but also find that peace that only people-to-people actions can find for us all.

I thank the gentlewoman, and I am looking forward to hearing the rest of this Special Order.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very dear friend and colleague, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS from the great State of Washington, for leading our delegation, for putting this Special Order together this evening, and for including all of us—Dr. PHIL ROE from Tennessee, my good friend BRADLEY BYRNE from Alabama, and there have been others—who have made this journey with the U.S. Israel Education Association from both the Senate and the U.S. House.

It is just so marvelous to stand in support of the U.S.-Israel relationship, a decades-long partnership that underpins security in the Middle East and promotes democratic flourishing throughout the entire region at a time, sadly, of heightened anti-Semitism that we are seeing across the globe. It is more important than ever that we maintain this strong connection to this very, very key ally of ours in Israel.

Israel is deeply invested in achieving peace in the Middle East, and so is the United States of America. We will always, all of us, stand collectively with Israel as they work toward the achievement of this goal.

As my good friend BRADLEY BYRNE from the great State of Alabama expressed, in August, we traveled as a delegation and had the opportunity to go to Israel with the U.S. Israel Education Association and my colleagues. We saw firsthand Israelis and Palestinians working together to promote peace and harmony.

We visited the capital of Samaria, which BRADLEY BYRNE talked about, which was Ariel, a town where we saw Palestinians and Israelis working together in a true, integrated business fashion. We spoke to both Jews and Arabs who yearn for peace and prosperity for the region.

We explored an industrial park that has upwards of 200 businesses where Palestinians were, indeed, working alongside Israelis. We spoke with those employees. Many of the Palestinians told us that they were making somewhere between three and four times what they would otherwise earn if they didn't have this opportunity to have the integrated business that we saw going on in Ariel.

To provide for their families, and live in peace and harmony, they were standing up to what I would call strong, divisive forces that seek to vilify Israel and undermine its credibility as a force for peace.

Yet, it is clear that both sides want to find a solution to the bloodshed and

to the hate. People-to-people connections—and my friend Congressman BYRNE said it so clearly and eloquently—between the Israelis and Palestinians are building blocks of the entire peace process. I am confident that both communities are working together to improve a mutual understanding and expand economic prospects for all citizens.

We did so many things in the area of defense, our common defense with Israel, getting to see some of the amazing work that the Israeli defense organization, working in conjunction with the United States of America, was able to do, especially when it came to the Arrow-3 test that we saw, which was just so fantastic. It just happened this last July. That would take out a long-range ballistic missile and keep us all safe.

We also got to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu. We had a long discussion about the West Bank and about the time that we spent there inside the West Bank, watching Israelis and Palestinians working together in this integrated fashion. I asked the Prime Minister: Wow, so many of the myths have been debunked. I want to go back with this information, talk to my colleagues, and talk to my constituents. What should we say?

The Prime Minister said: Tell their truth.

I will also say this: With Iran working to destabilize the region and threaten Israel through dangerous terrorist proxies that we have seen in Hezbollah and Hamas, it is essential that we stand together with our ally. I am committed, and I know that we all are, to protecting our critical relationship and strengthening the ties between the United States and Israel.

I also find it especially concerning that anti-Israeli actors are seeking to delegitimize and isolate the State of Israel through the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions, or BDS. I was very proud to introduce legislation, H. Res. 246, with Representatives SCHNEIDER, ZELDIN, and NADLER, a true bipartisan effort that expresses Congress' strong support for Israel and condemns the BDS movement.

I am happy to say that H. Res. 246 has been agreed to in the House with a vote of 398 in support. I hope this sends a clear message of support to the people of Israel and also to those who would maybe seek to undermine it.

We, in Congress, stand with Israel. We will continue to work to strengthen and deepen ties between our nations.

I am just so pleased that I had this incredible opportunity to see business, peace, prosperity, hope, and real people who found their humanity and want to live together in peace and harmony. To be with these good people and to be on this journey that was one of policy, one of defense, it was also a spiritual journey that I think lifted us all up, heartened us, and strengthened us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington State, my

dear friend, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, for leading us in this journey and for her continued leadership in the work that we are going to do to promote integrated business.

I look forward to her comments and those of Dr. PHIL ROE. I am so grateful to USIEA for this tremendous opportunity.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri. I thought she said it so well. It really is an untold story. It is a story of opportunity, and it is a story of hope that, unfortunately, isn't being told right now.

This needs to be part of the peace plan. We need to have and encourage that economic cooperation between the Israelis and the Palestinian business leaders. We saw it, the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce coming together and, in the last 2 years, creating jobs, creating opportunities, and giving people hope.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

It was, indeed, a privilege to be on the trip with the group. It was a great group.

I also thank our leader, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, for keeping a stiff upper lip when her clothes didn't get there for a few days.

I was in Israel 10 years ago, so this was my first trip back in 10 years. I saw a dramatic change in that country.

I grew up on a farm, so I am very, very interested in the agriculture in that country. One of the things that I saw that had changed in that country was they had developed the ability to desalinate seawater. Sixty percent of the water that they get in that country now is desalinated seawater. They are able to take a desert and actually sustain a fairly substantial population on it.

When we visited the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias, I also noticed that the Sea of Galilee was up since the last time I was there. It had actually come up. It had a wet winter.

Up on the Golan, which overlooks the Sea of Galilee, which the Israelis captured in the 1967 war, that is one of the best agricultural areas in the Middle East, probably. Let us not forget that it is still a very dangerous piece of real estate.

Most people don't realize how small that country actually is. There are places in Israel from the Green Line. That is the fence separating the Palestinian Authority and Israel. It is 9 miles. One of the officials there laughingly said that when President George Bush was there, he said: We have drive-ways in Texas longer than that.

He is almost right. You don't appreciate how small that country is and what they have been able to accomplish.

From an economic standpoint, I am a former mayor, and one of the things as

a mayor that you do is try to develop and sell your city and develop businesses in that city. What I saw was the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce did not exist when I was there 10 years ago. It is very new, 18 months old. I am going to introduce them to our Chamber of Commerce in the U.S. so that they can get together.

You saw people—not nations, but people—working together to make life better for their community. This is their home, and they want their home to be as safe and good as it can be.

I want to say this about Mr. Jaber. He is a very brave man. I told him that not everybody agrees with what he is doing in this, and he did not care. He represented a large family in that region, in Hebron, where he is and where his family resides.

What they want is they want freedom. They want the ability to work. They want the ability to worship like anybody else wants. They want the same things you and I do.

In this piece of real estate, there are a lot of bad actors there. If you go down to the Gaza Strip, it is the poverty that is there.

By the way, we know that in southern Lebanon, where Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups live, Iran is funding those. Israel has to deal with that.

We made a trip to Golan Heights. We looked and could see a very green Israel where it had been farmed and irrigated, and we saw a very desolate looking Syria, where there has been a war for over 10 years. Five hundred thousand people, the population of Washington, D.C., had been killed there during that civil war. It is really incredibly sad.

I think one of the things I looked at was how you defend them. I am an old second infantry guy in the Army, so how do you defend this real estate?

We had an opportunity to meet with some of the Israeli officials, and they showed us their defense systems. Every new home in that country built since 1998, I believe, has to have a safe room, so a room that has reinforced concrete, rebar, that you can get your family in almost immediately.

We take these liberties and freedoms that we have for granted in this country, where we are safe to go wherever we want to go and drive where we want to. We saw roads in areas that are marked A, B, and C. In A area, a Jew cannot go there. You are not allowed to go there.

We have, in this country, been free for a third century, and we don't appreciate that as much as when you go to a place like that and realize you can't go exactly where you want to. There is always a worry when you are on the beach or out at dinner or at a restaurant with your family: Is this going to be the night that a terrorist attack occurs?

There was much improvement from 10 years ago.

With the gentlewoman from Missouri, who I hope to get to see next

week in Missouri when I visit there, we visited with her family and got to see some of the most amazing sights. From my standpoint as a Christian, it was incredibly uplifting to me to walk on the steps where Jesus walked, to be able to see where Abraham, perhaps, almost sacrificed Jacob.

We saw a lot of those areas that we read about but had never really seen them. It really brought the Bible to life for me. That was really good.

Meeting with the Prime Minister, he spent an enormous amount of time, considering what was on his plate—an election. He had that on his plate, but he was very generous with his time.

□ 1830

He spent a lot of time considering what was on his plate: an election. He had that on his plate, but he was very generous with his time. I remember asking him, I said: What keeps you up at night? What wakes you up?

And it didn't take him 2 seconds. He said: The red phone, because there is almost not a night that he is not dealing with something incredibly serious in that small country.

So I wish them well, and I certainly would encourage others to study this part of the country. It is an amazing country.

I will say this: There for thousands of years. And we saw artifacts and buildings that were thousands of years old. We think of our country being 300 years old or 400 years old, and this area is thousands of years old. So anything that you dig in Jerusalem, especially, you are going to find something when you dig under the ground that has been there for many years.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. That was great to hear.

I often tell people, everyone should go to Israel. There really is no other place like it in all of the world. And it is at the center of history from a Biblical perspective, the history, but today, so much of what is happening in the world is centered on what is going on in Israel. So it was great to be able to return to Israel for me.

I have traveled with the U.S. Israel Education Association before, and I am grateful for them leading these trips, especially behind the Green Line into Judea and Samaria, and taking Members of Congress, House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to be able to see it for themselves. It really is important.

We spent a couple of days beyond the Green Line, so that is in the West Bank, and we were witnessing amazing cooperation between the Palestinians and the Israelis. I feel like, for me, it is the untold story, and it is a story about opportunity. It doesn't always make the headlines or the news, the cable news. It is a story of hope at a time when too many despair.

So I think the gentlewoman mentioned we went to the city of Ariel. Ariel is the capital of Samaria. It is a

city right now that is booming with housing, shopping centers, more jobs. We went to Ariel University. It is the newest university in Israel. It is a leader in science and technology.

I was especially impressed with the program that they had for those with autism, giving those with autism an opportunity to earn a degree. They are also building a new medical school.

Ariel University is a leading model, where Jews, Arabs, and diverse students from across Israel come to study and to learn together, to build that opportunity for a better life.

Down the road from Ariel University, we toured the business park. There was a large business park. We toured one factory that is processing 50 tons of tahini a day, and they want to double that very soon.

In that town is where we saw the Israelis and the Palestinians working together. We saw neighborhoods where they are living together with equal opportunities, equal pay, equal benefits.

The waiting list to get a job is over 1,000 people long. And why is that? Because they are going to make three to four times what they could make anywhere else that is controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Now, everything that comes out of that business park is considered BDS. So why would Palestinians want to risk working at a place that everything is going to be stamped "BDS"—and that is actually against the law. It is because they want to be able to provide for their families and live a full life.

So one Palestinian employee in Ariel said this: "All the people I know in the factory or outside it, they believe that the commercial progress will bring stability, a comfortable life."

"Why not work together in peace? You can see good examples of friendship and peace here."

"In the territories that are under the control of the Palestinian Authorities in the West Bank, we don't have factories like this factory. If you want to work in a factory over there, you will not get the salary we get here. It's not enough for the necessity of life."

"Here, we get a comfortable and respectable salary."

That is the reality on the ground in the West Bank. Jews and Arabs from Israel and Palestine are working and living together today in peace.

I was reminded again that it is the opportunity: It is the opportunity for a good-paying job. It is the chance for your children to get a good education.

It is the desire for hope, peace, and security that drives all of us. It really is foundational for every person, no matter their background or their walk of life.

I was also reminded of this in Hebron. And in Hebron, we did make history. That picture was the first time that a group of Members of Congress had traveled to a Palestinian business leader's home, Ashraf Jabari, and he warmly invited us into his home. He told us that he wants to be a partner

for peace with America in the Middle East.

Mrs. WAGNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, we hope that he would be coming along with the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce to the United States to also tell their story to Congress and to our other colleagues. Mr. Jabari welcomed us into his home, and we can't wait to welcome the sheikh here to tell this great story of partnership and integrated business and working together.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

This picture is a picture of the leaders of the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce. There are 150 Israeli business leaders and 150 Palestinian business leaders coming together. They formed the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce 2 years ago, and, yes, we want to invite them to come to Capitol Hill, to visit with Members of Congress, to tell their story, because it is an untold story, and it needs to be told.

They believe that this has to be part of the peace solution. It is the bottom-up grassroots movement where people are living together, working together, and they are doing it. And that is the way that we are going to build peace. So it was really encouraging to see that economic activity.

One of the things that I remember Ashraf saying was:

Our truth and our reality is that the Palestinians and the Israelis work together. We want to show the world that reality.

So that is why we are excited about them coming and being able to host them here in Congress and being able to introduce them and have them tell their story.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, "tell their truth" is what the Prime Minister said. That is so important. We look forward to it.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, another aspect of this does deal with the BDS movement, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that we see right now. It has a goal of delegitimizing Israel.

We heard from the factory workers, the business leaders like Ashraf, and the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce. We saw a different story where they are really working together in peace, and that economic relationship must be foundational to peace.

For the Palestinians and the Israelis, though, BDS is going to threaten it. Both the Palestinian business leaders as well as the Palestinian workers told us that BDS actually hurts them more than the Israelis because, for the first time, they have an opportunity for a really good-paying job, to be able to provide for their families, to be able to make sure that their kids are getting a good education. That is their dream. That is what gives them hope.

So it hurts them. It hurts their ability to work, to provide for their fami-

lies. They want economic freedom, not boycotts. And this desire is overwhelming.

That is why I am proud of the leadership of my colleague, the gentlewoman from Missouri, ANN WAGNER, in leading the resolution that passed here on the House floor, overwhelmingly, a statement that we do not stand for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, BDS, that this is actually going to work against peace.

What we saw, what we witnessed, that is the foundation for peace and must be a part of any of the peace plan moving forward.

So I believe that, as America continues to influence and encourage this kind of grassroots movement, we are going to see growing economic opportunity that is foundational, that is vital for Israel's future, but also for the Palestinian people.

Israel is our greatest ally, our greatest friend in the Middle East. They are also vital for America. So I am going to be encouraging, and I know my fellow colleagues who traveled with me, we are going to be talking to the administration and Jared Kushner about the peace plan that is being developed right now and urging them to include, in any kind of a peace plan, this economic cooperation and America standing in support of this bottom-up grassroots approach that really makes a difference in people's lives.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, if I could add one thing while we are having this colloquy in this terrific Special Order, we were all grateful for the opportunity that USIEA gave us.

I want to thank—I think we all want to thank—Heather Johnston for her leadership. Thanks to General Krulak for his leadership and their entire team that made this experience possible, that has worked so diligently and so fervently to bring peace to Israel, to put forward the peace process through things like integrated business, to recognize the strong defense ally and partnership that we have with Israel, and that some \$3.3 million of U.S. taxpayer funds that we share jointly with Israel in order to lift up their defense system so that we are all safe in this world and, certainly, in this delicate part of the Middle East.

So I want to thank those leaders of USIEA and, again, the gentlewoman from Washington for bringing us on this tremendous journey. We hope to share it with many others.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I completely agree. That is a good point. A big thank-you to Heather Johnston, who led, and General Krulak, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is helping encourage this economic, integrated business approach.

We also got to, as the gentlewoman said, see Arrow 3. Also traveling with us was Ari Sacher, who led the whole Iron Dome.

I always take pleasure in noting that, under his leadership, Israel was

able to develop Iron Dome in less than 3 years, under budget. That is something we could take note of. And it is working, and they are using it today and every day.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, just to continue with Mr. Jabari, to put this in perspective for people. He worked for the Palestinian Authority for over 10 years as one of their security people. He saw it was not working.

He pointed out, when we were in his home: We had a 4-year election 15 years ago. This term of the leadership was supposed to be for 4 years, and that was 15 years ago.

So they knew they had no power. They had elected these folks, and he saw his people were not improving; their plight was not improving. So he thought: I am going to do something different.

And that is exactly what he struck out. And as I said, this gentleman right here on this photo is a very brave man, and I wish him nothing but the absolute best.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jabari had courage and bravery.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I think he had his people at heart and his family at heart and the Palestinians at heart, and I see nothing but good things if peace can break out.

Another thing we did that I think was extremely important was go to the training center and visit there. This is a leadership training center. Some 60,000 people have been through it in Israel.

The day we were there, there were a group of Palestinian Girl Scouts there team building, and it was fun to kind of watch them.

I was actually much happier watching them on the ground. They were climbing up on these ropes and everything.

But they were there with their Scout leader going through the leadership training. This is building bonds and friendship that will, hopefully, last for generations.

I think the other thing that the Palestinian Authority, that Mr. Jabari pointed out, he said that, of all the money that the United States has given the Palestinian Authority, they have not built one school or one hospital for the people.

So where did the money go?

We heard that day when we were there that there is actually a bounty from the Palestine Authority if you kill a Jew, if you kill another human being, that your family that is left is given money each month.

□ 1845

That is very difficult to get to a peaceful situation, and that is why I am so respectful of Mr. Jabari, because he put himself in harm's way to try to make the plight of his people better. And he is doing it.

A couple of other things that I think we learned on this trip was how many

businesses are thriving in Israel. So the next time you get in your car, Mr. Speaker, and you start driving down the road, and your car automatically brakes, your steering wheel shakes when you get out of the lane as you look at your cellphone—and you shouldn't—this driverless car technology was developed in Israel. I think Intel has now bought the company. So when you see a car driving without anybody in it, that technology began in Israel.

Another thing that really surprised me that is a difference, it is a game changer in that country, was the fact that they discovered natural gas. They are now a net exporter of energy. They actually export to Egypt. So it really stabilized them from an energy standpoint where they are not so dependent. America's independence also contributes to their safety.

Let me go over why that is important. Forty-plus years ago, we had an oil embargo by OPEC in this country. We had lines. Every other day we had to get in a line to get gas. I happened to be a young Army officer 11 miles south of the DMZ in Korea during the winter. We got heat 3 hours a day because of this embargo. We had to use our fuel for our tanks, Cobra gunships, Huey helicopters, and other equipment that we had. So we didn't have any to heat the place we were in, and it was incredibly miserable there.

I saw oil used as a political weapon back then. The fact is that this country is now energy independent. We had three huge tankers get diverted by Iran. We had an attack that took out almost 6 million barrels of oil a day. Because of the energy policies in this country, there was hardly a hiccup. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, if we had been in the same situation 40 years ago, gas would have been two or three times what it is. It would have created great hardships in this country.

So the fact is that Israel is there helping. They are making friends. They have a great partnership. I give President Carter a shout-out. Anwar Sadat died because of that partnership that occurred, and peace has broken out between the Israelis, the Egyptians, and the Jordanians.

Do they still have differences?

Yes. But they are civil to each other, and they are working those differences out. Saudi Arabia—who would have ever thought—I remember Prime Minister Netanyahu said: Who would have ever thought Israeli airplanes would be flying over Saudi Arabia?

They are now. So you can see a change that has occurred in the last 10 years that I found astonishing.

Mrs. WAGNER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, the economic summit that was pulled together where so many Arabs came and participated was all a lead-up to a peace proc-

ess and the kind of work that we are seeing that is happening in the West Bank. We hope that it will continue to flourish. The peace process is something that I know that Jared Kushner, our White House, USIEA, the Israeli Government, the Palestinians, and others are working on. It is something that I think will be the basis and the underpinning of the peace process.

As we have all expressed, we see people find the humanity, find that all they want is what we all want: to be safe and secure, to take care of our families, to give back to society, to be productive, to be able to worship in the fashion that we choose, and to have some freedom. That is what we hope for Israel long-term.

It was just wonderful to be a part of this journey. I look forward to the future, what this administration is going to bring to the table, and to those who will be coming to, I hope, educate our colleagues on the important work that is being done.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, we should also recognize the extraordinary leadership of Ambassador David Friedman. We had the opportunity to have lunch with him. We had the opportunity to visit the United States Embassy in Jerusalem.

Mrs. WAGNER. A first. A promise that was made and kept, finally, by an American President, President Trump. It is great.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. It was a beautiful day when we were there. It was just great to be able to spend some time with him. He really has led the way within the administration with integrated business. Also he sees the vision, and he sees the potential of what that means as far as helping really forge peace from a bottom-up approach. So it was great to be with him.

I appreciated Dr. ROE talking about the national training center which is leading with training, leadership, and teamwork that we all can benefit from. They have contracted with the IDF. They have contracts now with the Department of Education. We saw the young people—the Israelis and the Arabs—going through this training together—thousands.

Mrs. WAGNER. Tens of thousands. It was amazing.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. It was so encouraging to see that during our time there.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, one of the young ladies took a lot of encouragement. I do remember that. She was having a hard time, but she made it across finally.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. I remember that, too.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. WAGNER mentioned that I hope that the Palestinians find peace and prosperity. They have long suffered, and many in Gaza still do. In Hebron where Mr. Jabari was, peace and prosperity is breaking out there.

I wish them nothing but the best, and I hope they are successful in their endeavor.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, when you think about Israel, it is a very young country. It is just over 70 years old. It is very impressive from a defense perspective, from a technology perspective, and from an agriculture perspective leading the world in so many different fields.

I also believe it is always important to highlight they are the only democracy in the Middle East. They are our best friend. Its history and its culture are the center of our civilization. Israel faces threats every single day against its survival and against the universal values of peace, security, opportunity, and, of course, freedom.

Those values unite us in America and in Israel on both sides of the Green Line. I am excited that my colleagues are here to share with everyone our experience. We returned home with a strong conviction that this story needs to be told and that more of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, need to see it for themselves. That was the biggest takeaway we heard after listening to the people whom we met. They asked us to go home and share their reality and their desires to promote peace and economic security in Israel. That is our mission today.

Mrs. WAGNER. As I said, Mr. Speaker, I just thank the gentlewoman from Washington so much for her leadership and that of the USIEA. To go on this journey is wonderful, and we look forward to the future.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I say God bless the Palestinians and Israelis. We wish them nothing but the best.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Well said.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4378. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 27, 2019, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2310. A letter from the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, Commodity Credit Corporation/Farm Service