

Houston, TX which has provided so many with an opportunity to understand the life and legacy of so many of our Jewish community and as well the history of Israel.

I would also like to acknowledge special friends like the late Jerry Ribnik, someone who has lived his life in fostering good relations, human relations and communication between those of the Jewish community and the larger community, and particularly for his support of Israel.

Likewise, I would like to add my appreciation and support for Vic Samuels, the editor of the Jewish Herald Voice, a paper that for many years has given to Houston the value of its insight and understanding of the issues dealing with Israel and the issues in general of the Jewish community.

I would also like to thank the late Karen Susman, who worked so very hard with the Anti-Defamation League. Many were able to see the light through Karen's eyes; we thank her. With her recent passing, I wanted her family and friends to know how much her contributions impacted all of us and helped to foster relationships between the Jewish community and the larger community.

Then I would also like to commend Melvin and Freda Dow whose combined leadership of AIPAC did so much in adding to the national recognition of the friendship between Israel and the United States.

It is important as well to recognize the many community associations and organizations like Houston's local chapter of the American Jewish Federation, the local chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and, as I mentioned earlier, the Jewish Herald Voice newspaper. All have contributed to fostering greater understanding and friendship in Houston and added to our appreciation of the importance of Israel to our Nation and yes, to our city, the City of Houston.

A milestone in world history was reached on November 29, 1947, when the United Nations General Assembly voted to assist in the creation of the state of Israel. The people of the United States began a long history with the modern state of Israel on May 14, 1948 when the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent state of Israel and the United States Government established full diplomatic relations with Israel. This relationship has been fostered by a mutual appreciation for democratic values, common strategic interests and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect.

The establishment of a modern state of Israel as a homeland for the Jews followed the murder of more than 6 million European Jews during the Holocaust. This tragic chapter in world history will never be forgotten, and the establishment of a modern state of Israel in no way relieves those responsible for that terrible crime.

This jubilee year for the state of Israel is one that the United States and

the world can join in to celebrate together. The people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic democratic political system including freedom of speech, a free press, free and open elections, the rule of law, and other important democratic principles and practices.

I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to the people of Israel for their efforts in maintaining a democratic government and the strengthening of the relationship with the United States as each Nation moves toward the dawn of a new century. I wish all of Israel and its people a prosperous future, and I believe that the next 50 years will be as successful as the last. Best wishes to all of you on the 50th anniversary of the modern state of Israel.

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IN HONOR OF TOM ARCHER AND LARRY WALSH, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FELLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two fallen heroes from Albert City, Iowa. Tom Archer and Larry Walsh, both volunteer firefighters with the Albert City Fire Department, were taken from us in the line of duty on April 9. They were fighting a propane tank fire when an unexpected and horrific explosion claimed their lives. The explosion also injured six other firefighters and a deputy sheriff.

Both of these men were true heroes in every sense of the word. Between them they had served for nearly 30 years as volunteer firefighters to protect the lives and the property of their neighbors, their families and their communities.

Larry Walsh and Tom Archer volunteered because they cared. They volunteered because they cared enough to risk their lives whenever called upon. They volunteered because they cared enough to interrupt their jobs, their meals and their precious time with their families. They volunteered because they cared about protecting the property, the safety and the lives of their neighbors in times of need, a need that could have arisen at any time in the day or night or any day of the year.

Tom Archer and Larry Walsh were two of the Nation's finest volunteer firefighters, a group of men and women who inspire so many by the brave actions they take in and for their communities.

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Volunteer firefighters are uniquely small town and rural American. They provide a quality protection that their communities would never be able to afford without their dedication.

This evening, I am asking that all Americans take a moment to remem-

ber Tom Archer, his wife Kelly, and their 2 children, Cody and Tanner, and to remember Larry Walsh, his wife Valerie, their four children, Angela, Lindsey, Jason and Shannon, in our prayers. May we remember Tom Archer and Larry Walsh in our hearts as fathers, husbands and two of America's greatest heroes. May they rest in peace in God's hands.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the Chairman of the Congressional Fire and EMS Caucus, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding; and I just want to join him and thank him for his eloquent statement on behalf of these two brave Americans and to extend my deepest sympathies to their families along with the gentleman from Iowa.

Let me state, Mr. Speaker, each year, unfortunately, we have a hundred incidents of this type across this Nation, where there is no other volunteer occupation in America where, each year, 100 brave Americans lose their lives and they are torn from their families as we have with the American volunteer fire service. It is another example of where we have people selflessly providing support to protect our families and our neighborhoods, and it is all the more reason why in this terrible tragedy in Iowa we should recommit ourselves as an institution to try to lessen the amount of loss of life that we have not in just these brave Americans but from those people they are trying to save.

I join with my friend and colleague, and I would reiterate that on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, we will be joined by some 2,000 of these leaders from across the country to talk about the kind of needs that would better prepare men like Tom and Larry to deal with these terrible disasters that they face every day in their communities.

Right outside of the House Chambers will be a massive display of support for the men and women of the American Fire Service, both paid and volunteers, asking this Congress and this administration to finally listen, to provide not just training but resources, communications equipment, support for preplanning that does not exist now so that we do not keep having to come down to the well to pay tribute to brave Americans like Tom Archer and Larry Walsh.

Let me say in closing, Mr. Speaker, as we in this country look for heroes we do not have to look to Hollywood, and we do not have to look to our athletic figures. We do not have to look to our politicians. We can look to those men and women across this country, 1.2 million of them in 32,000 organizations and departments just like the one that Tom and Larry belonged to who, day in and day out, protect America. And they do not do it for the pay. They do not do it for the recognition. They do it because it is the right thing to do for their community and for their country.

I join with my friend, and I thank him for his tireless efforts on behalf of

the American Fire Service and in paying tribute to these two great Americans.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his excellent statement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS YARBOROUGH, KIRTLAND, OHIO'S CHIEF OF POLICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, before I had the pleasure of serving as a Member of Congress, I was a prosecuting attorney in Ohio. And while I prosecuted thousands of cases and saw many defendants in court, there was one in 1990 that was notorious; and the facts of the case do not matter; and the defendants, who are all in prison, really do not matter. But what does matter is that that case, because of its notoriety, gave me the things that those of us in public life need to be successful: name recognition, approval ratings. But, more than that, it gave me a friend for life, Chief Dennis Yarborough of the Kirtland Police Department.

Chief Yarborough served in the special forces posted at the White House. He was a highway patrolman in Pennsylvania, and he served as a deputy sheriff before coming home to his beloved Kirtland, where he served as chief of police for 19 years.

Kirtland, Ohio, is a beautiful town. It is a city of faith, it is a city of trees, many churches. It is the home, and those of the Mormon faith will know Joseph Smith stopped in his travels in Kirtland, Ohio, and built the Kirtland Temple. It is a city of good people, and it is a place that Dennis very much loved.

The last case in this series of cases, because of the pretrial publicity, was transferred hundreds of miles from our home; and Dennis and I lived for weeks at a time in 1990 out of our suitcases. And although it prepared me for this life, I have to say that I do not enjoy living out of a suitcase any more today than I did then.

But we did have the chance, when we had dinner at the end of the day or when we had breakfast before going to the courthouse in the morning, to talk; and, just like here, it is good to not talk always about legislation and things political. It was good not to talk about the case all the time.

Dennis' conversation always focused on three things. It focused on the community, Kirtland, where he grew up, a city that he loved, a place that he very much wanted to serve and protect; and it was obvious today at his funeral, Mr.

Speaker, that the City of Kirtland loved him. As we left the driveway of the church, men, women and children lined the street and waved goodbye to their beloved chief. Store merchants put signs on their marquees thanking him for his 19 years of service and saying goodbye.

He talked about his children, Jim and Marcy, and how proud that he was to have been able to participate in the raising of such fine, fine Americans and how he was glad that if he had done nothing else on Earth he was able to provide two young people with a good start in life so that they could be proud Americans as well.

And, lastly, he talked about his wife Gail, his wife Gail whom he had been with since they were 12 years old. As a matter of fact, in our hotel in Toledo the chief had never been away from his wife for an extended period of time, and he could not sleep. So he would get up in the middle of the night, and he would walk the halls of the hotel, and that is how he passed his time.

Today, not only Kirtland, Ohio, but the United States and certainly the area that I represent lost a great man. On Thursday last, while jogging, another one of his passions, he collapsed and died of a heart attack.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, Dennis Yarborough, Chief Dennis Yarborough of the Kirtland Police Department, I believe is in God's arms. And I also pray this evening that the good Lord watches over his family, Gail and James and Marcy; and I know that this country, my district, Kirtland, Ohio, is better for the fact that Dennis Yarborough came their way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week we begin the annual process of marking up our defense bills. These are the largest bills that we enact in this Congress each year and, perhaps, I would argue, the most important.

Unfortunately, we are facing an impossible situation. The only major area of Federal spending where this administration has actually cut has been in the area of national security. All other Federal agencies have either remained stagnant or they have received slight increases. In fact, this is the twelfth consecutive year of defense cuts. Some would say, well, we are still spending more money on the military, but the facts all prove otherwise.

In John Kennedy's era, a time of relative peace after Korea and before Vietnam, we were spending 52 cents of every Federal tax dollar on the military. This year, we are spending 15 cents on the military. In John Kennedy's era, we spent 9 percent of our country's gross national product on defense. This year, it is 2.9 percent.

And back in John Kennedy's era, Mr. Speaker, we had a draft where young people were taken out of high school and they were forced to serve the country and then they served for 2 years and left the service of the Nation. Today, we have an all-volunteer force, well-paid, families, children, education costs, housing costs. So quality of life is a much larger portion of that smaller amount of money that we spend on defense. Our job is to try to meet the needs of our military in a very difficult budget environment.

Now added to this problem of decreasing defense assets is the fact that, over the past 6 years under this President, we have had our troops deployed 25 times around the world at home and abroad. Now that compares to 10 deployments in the previous 40 years. Twenty-five deployments in 6 years versus 10 deployments in the previous 40 years. And the problem, Mr. Speaker, is none of these 25 deployments were budgeted for, none of these 25 deployments were paid for.

So in spite of the dramatically declining defense budgets, we have added up an additional \$15 billion that was not planned for that had to come out of defense programs. So we have had an additional cut of \$15 billion below the authorized budget amount.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is, in the case of Bosnia, we are spending \$9.42 billion on the Bosnian operation. It is not that we do not think we have a role for the U.S. in Bosnia, but what is being said in this body and the other body is, why should America go it alone? Why did we put 36,000 troops in Bosnia when the Germans right next door only put 4,000 troops in that theater? Why are we always asked to foot the bill for these deployments that are so important for regional and global security?

After all, President Bush in Desert Storm got the allied nations to reimburse the U.S. \$53 billion for the costs of Desert Storm which were \$52 billion. Under this administration, we have had no reimbursements; and the \$15 billion of contingency costs have all come out of an already strapped defense budget.

I raise this issue, Mr. Speaker, because we are in for tough times as we approach the 21st century. We cannot continue to meet the needs of our troops under the type of robust commitments that this President has made for the men and women of America's military. We need to understand the sacrifice, and we need to understand that we need to stop the continuing drain of defense dollars that are so necessary to provide the support for these brave men and women.