

world are coming home this weekend to celebrate the new House and to visit old friends, doctors, nurses, and all those who have become a part of their family over the years.

The idea for the Ronald McDonald House was launched in 1978 by a group of parents and friends, most of whom had experienced the trauma of serious childhood illness in their own families. They were supported by contributions from the Houston McDonald's Operators Association, the Houston Oilers, and area foundations, corporations, community organizations, and individuals. In May 1981, the first family moved into the original Ronald McDonald House.

Because of its many outstanding medical facilities, thousands of children travel to Houston each year to be treated for serious illnesses. The Ronald McDonald House provides a place where the whole family can stay in a homelike environment and find support as they share with other families who are also experiencing the trauma of childhood illness. The Ronald McDonald House strives to relieve the stress and pain of illness by offering these families a warm, caring environment where they can share their concerns.

In the fall of 1994, a \$10 million capital campaign was launched to secure funds for the construction of a new, larger Ronald McDonald House of Houston in the Texas Medical Center. With the successful completion of this campaign in September 1997, the doors to the current House were opened.

The new House is a three-story brick atrium building including 50 private bedrooms, an eight-station kitchen, special needs kitchen, dining room, meeting areas, business offices, resident manager quarters, playrooms, laundry, outside play area, and even a schoolroom. The House now averages 32 families a night and is well on its way to a full House of 50 families.

The reunion weekend will consist of an old fashioned Texas Round-up Barbecue hosted by the employees of Southwest Airlines, as well as a breakfast with special guests from the Texas Medical Center, The Spring Fling Children's Party, and a commemorative Closing Ceremony. During the ceremony, the children will plant a garden honoring those children who were unable to attend the reunion.

Mr. Speaker, the Ronald McDonald House of Houston, its staff, volunteers and especially its families over the years are a great inspiration to all Americans and I congratulate them on this special occasion.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Israel's 50th birthday and celebrate a half century of freedom, democracy, and independence.

In 1948, a Jewish homeland was created after 2,000 years in which its people knew only exile and, far too often, persecution. For thousands of years, the Jewish people would say, "Next year in Jerusalem," but their cry

would go unrealized. But the suffering and wandering ended fifty years ago when the world community fulfilled the dreams of the Zionists, and gave men and women around the globe a place in the holy land to call their own.

It has been a remarkable fifty years. As the Psalmist tells us, "He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." We have certainly seen this message bear truth. Israel's entire history has been a race of hope versus conflict. Though its people have known tragedy and war, Israel has always triumphed. This tiny nation has persevered and thrived, building an island of democracy in a troubled region and a haven of faith in an uncertain time.

As a representative of all the people of Northeast Wisconsin, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Israel on an extraordinary half century and extend my hope and confidence for its continued strength in the years to come.

In the last fifty years, we have turned the plea of "Next year in Jerusalem" into a promise. Long may that promise flourish.

SALUTING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the State of Israel on the 50th Anniversary of its establishment. It is an honor to salute Israel, our long-standing ally and to remember that the United States of America was the first nation to recognize officially the State of Israel fifty years ago.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend several events in the 11th Congressional District of great significance. One event to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Israel was a joint celebration held by three synagogues in Morristown, New Jersey. The Congregation Ahavath Israel, the Morristown Jewish Center and Temple B'nai Or held a remarkable celebration on the grounds of the Vail Mansion which was both cultural and educational, and it highlighted the "modern miracle that is Israel."

What was of special significance were the number of children present from Conservative, Orthodox and Reform congregations. It was a remarkable event that reinforced the need to remember and to never forget the Holocaust and that the struggle for true peace is never over.

Another special event was the dedication of the Holocaust Memorial Garden and Study Center at Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston.

Mr. Speaker, the garden is a remarkable place. For some it will be a place for recollection, for others medication. Most importantly, the study center and garden is a place to teach the young. Like the Holocaust Museum in Washington, my hope is that this special Memorial Garden and Study Center will attract people of all faiths.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21, the House of Representatives passed a resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship between our two nations. I was pleased to both cosponsor and vote for this resolution, which recognized the accomplishments of the Jewish people who

helped forge the modern state of Israel, and who make it the vibrant and dynamic country it is today. Mr. Speaker, I am including a copy of that important legislation at the end of my remarks today.

The modern state of Israel is still tied to the ancient Kingdom of Israel, first established over three thousand years ago. The recognition of their history, and respect of tradition, has helped guide Israel's leaders for the past fifty years. David Ben-Gurion, the founding father and first prime minister of Israel, said in an broadcast to the Israelis on May 15, 1948, the day after Independence:

Whatever we have achieved is the result of the efforts of earlier generations no less than our own. It is also the result of unwavering fidelity to our precious heritage, the heritage of a small nation that has suffered much, but at the same time has won for itself a special place in the history of mankind because of its spirit, faith and vision.

Mr. Speaker, my hope for the future of Israel, for the next fifty years and beyond, was best stated by Chaim Herzog, the fifth president of Israel, in his farewell address to the Knesset. To paraphrase him, I hope that Israel, as a flourishing, cohesive and progressive society, can continue to climb to the summits and reach the height from which they may be a beacon to the nations.

Joint Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Whereas on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine, and through that vote, to create the State of Israel;

Whereas on May 14, 1948, 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;

Whereas the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of Israel is the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established three thousand years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel;

Whereas one century ago at the First Zionist Congress on August 29 to 31, 1897, in Basel, Switzerland, participants under the leadership of Theodore Herzl affirmed the desire to reestablish a Jewish homeland in the historic land of Israel;

Whereas the establishment of the modern State of Israel as a homeland for the Jews followed the slaughter of more than six million European Jews during the Holocaust;

Whereas since its establishment 50 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt a nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy cost of six wars, terrorism, international ostracism, and economic boycotts;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic democratic political system including freedom of speech, a free press, free and fair and open elections, the rule of law, and other democratic principles and practices;

Whereas, at great social and financial costs, Israel has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Jews from countries throughout the World, many of them refugees from Arab countries, and fully integrated them into Israeli society;

Whereas for half a century the United States and Israel have maintained a special

relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

Whereas the American people have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel;

(2) commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the Middle East in the face of terrorism, hostility and belligerence by many of her neighbors;

(3) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past half-century and which have been significant for both countries; and

(4) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful and prosperous and successful future.

AKIN BIRDAL—VOICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN TURKEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, many in the human rights community were horrified to learn of the shooting of Akin Birdal, President of Turkey's Human Rights Foundation, by unidentified armed gunmen at his offices in Ankara. Mr. Birdal, a widely recognized and respected human rights advocate, appeared before the Helsinki Commission in the early 1990s and most recently met with members of a Commission delegation that visited Turkey in January. Today's attack occurred against the backdrop of an ongoing campaign of harassment against human rights NGOs in Turkey. The Human Rights Foundation, Turkey's largest human rights monitoring group, has had numerous offices closed down by the Turkish authorities. The Foundation's leadership, including Mr. Birdal, has been repeatedly targeted for prosecution.

The attack against Akin Birdal in a very real sense is an assault on Turkey's fledgling civil society. The development of a genuine civil society is essential if Turkey hopes to develop into a true democracy. Mr. Speaker, instead of viewing human rights advocates like Mr. Birdal as adversaries, Turkey's leaders should embrace these courageous individuals as allies and form a partnership with those dedicated to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Our prayers go out to Mr. Birdal and his family in the aftermath of this senseless act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MAN J. CHA, DR. WALTER FUNG, DR. TOYOKO MAE TAKAHASHI, MR. SUTEE VATANATHAM, AND MS. IA V. XIONG

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Man J. Cha, Walter Fung, M.D., Toyoko Mae Takahashi, Pharm. D., Sutee Vatanatham, and Ia V. Xiong, for being selected the 1998 Portraits of Success Program Honorees by KSEE 24 and Companies that Care. In recognition of Asian American Heritage Month, these five leaders were honored for their unique contribution to the betterment of the community.

Dr. Man J. Cha has served as Professor of political science and public administration at California State University, Fresno since 1969. He earned his masters and doctoral degrees from the School of Public Administration at the University of Southern California. He also earned his baccalaureate degree in International Relations and Economics from this acclaimed University. Since 1965, Dr. Cha has made significant contributions as an instructor in higher education. He has taught public management, organizational theory and behavior, and many other courses related to American government and public policy issues. He has also conducted extensive research related to environmental issues, economic development and the political and social culture of South Korea. In 1988, he was awarded a Rotary Foundation International Ambassadorial Scholarship to give lectures in Korea and the United States. In 1992 he was awarded a major grant from the Korea Research Foundation to study Korean bureaucracy and public policy. More recently, Dr. Cha was on sabbatical leave conducting policy research in China and Korea. Dr. Cha has published numerous scholarly works on a broad range of social and environmental issues related to Korea, Asian-American politics and America's economic foreign policy. On the local front, Dr. Cha served as a member of Fresno City Review Committee which recommended Fresno's strong mayor form of government in 1992. He also conducts training workshops to introduce city, county, and state employees to an advanced systems approach to public management methodology and processes.

Dr. Walter Fung was born and raised in Fresno, California. He graduated from Edison High School in 1950 and later from California State University, Fresno. He received his degree in medicine from the University of California at Irvine specializing in gastroenterology. From 1971 until 1974, Dr. Fung served as the Medical Director for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, providing clinical care, immunization, and health screenings to low-income individuals and children. In 1974 Dr. Fung was confronted with a life-changing experience, which he says brought him a renewed focus on life. He was diagnosed with cancer and given two years to live. He credits this frightening experience with adding a deeper dimension to his physician-patient relationships. His own illness prompted him to serve others as much as possible. His

caring and sensitivity has earned him public recognition for providing "extraordinary patient care." More recently, Dr. Fung coordinated the building of the new First Chinese Baptist church in Fresno. The facility has become the hub of activities for the Chinese community. Dr. Fung personally was responsible for raising \$700,000 of the \$1.5 million needed to complete this project. His past community involvement also includes working with the Boy Scouts, the March of Dimes, and the Boys and Girls Club of Fresno. Today Dr. Fung says he will continue promoting "filial piety" among the Asian community. His future plans include helping to build a skilled nursing and retirement home for Asian seniors to best meet their dietary and cultural needs. Dr. Fung and his wife Barbara have been blessed with three children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi is described by her friends and professional colleagues as a "perennial volunteer" who has been active for many years helping to improve the Fresno and Clovis communities. Dr. Takahashi completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She attained a doctoral degree from the School of Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1959, she completed a three-year pharmacy internship at Valley Medical Center in Fresno. In 1960, Dr. Takahashi established Valley Medical Pharmacy, Inc. (Manor drugs) acting as its corporate President. From 1969 until 1987, she served as a consultant for Hope Manor and Clovis Community Hospital. She later became a Partner at Hope Manor Convalescent Hospital, and more recently founded the Professional Pharmacy Alliance, Inc. and currently serves as the corporate President. In addition to her exemplary professional career, Dr. Takahashi is recognized for her extensive community service. She has been active for many years with Central California Asian Pacific Woman, an organization that helps to raise scholarships for deserving Asian Students. As well, she is active in the Soroptomist International of Fresno's Youth Forum. The Youth Forum is organized for students in Fresno and Clovis to provide young people with unique opportunities to discuss ways in which they can help to build a better society. Dr. Takahashi also served for five years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno Private Industry Council, which provides employment and training programs to local residents. She has also been very active with the Central California District Council, Japanese American Citizens League, the Central California Nikkei Foundation, and the Woodward Park Shin Zen Gardens. Additionally, she has served on numerous committees designed to promote small business development, higher education and civil rights protection of Japanese-Americans. In 1990, Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi was Appointed by President George Bush to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Citizen Advisory Committee in Equal Opportunity. That same year she was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice for her support and dedication to the Japanese American Redress Program.

Mr. Sutee Vatanatham was born in Thailand in 1951. He and his family immigrated to Los Angeles, California, in the early 1970's where he attended public schools. In the mid 1970's, Mr. Vatanatham moved to Visalia, California, where he received a two-year degree in Engineering from College of the Sequoias. In