

long-term effects of exposure on troops—for Vietnam, for the first Gulf war and for the current Iraq conflict, for example. Results are used to help set compensation policy.

Ti-service longitudinal studies might best be centralized and coordinated through the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, which encompasses all service branches as well as the U.S. Public Health Service.

Doing longitudinal studies often is difficult in the academic setting, where there is pressure for immediate pay-off. At the same time, studies produced by federal researchers all too often are rejected by regular scientific journals as being of limited interest because they focus on military or veteran populations.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the State of Israel and the greater Jewish community on the 56th anniversary of their Independence. The creation of the Jewish State in 1948 was met with the immediate support and recognition from the United States, and our country has continued to consider Israel our closest friend and strongest ally. As Israel continues to fight against terrorist groups, it is more important than ever the United States continues to show our solidarity and provide whatever aid and support both economic and moral, to our friend Israel.

Israel, as the only truly democratic nation in the Middle East should be lauded for 56 years of democracy. Israel continues to show the world that this small state which has been surrounded by aggressive states for most of its existence is here to stay. I believe the survival of the Jewish state is paramount and the United States must continue to encourage Israel's sustained efforts to defend the freedoms and rights it has secured its citizens.

That is why I commend President Bush, for his strong leadership in standing with Prime Minister Sharon in support of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, and in support of limited Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Prime Minister Sharon's bold and courageous position is following in the footsteps of Prime Minister Barak's withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. Unfortunately though, just as in Lebanon, I do not believe Hamas, the Palestinian Authority or other terrorist organizations will show the strong leadership and quest for peace that the Israeli government has shown, by stopping their terrorist attacks against the Jewish state.

Since its Independence, Israel has endured the unstable and troubling conditions in the Middle East that have sparked several wars and incited much violence. Yet the Israeli people remain united and strong and continue to stand up for their nation. That is why I stand here today, and re-affirm the right of the Israeli people to always protect themselves and their state from the forces of terrorism, no matter where it may exist.

Israel is a modern success story, the only Democracy in the Middle East, the only Middle Eastern country where Arabs have the right to vote for their elected officials and their political

leaders. Her detractors, and those who hide their anti-Semitism behind anti-Zionism must not denigrate the success of Israel. I am proud to be one of Israel's strongest friends in Congress and to stand here today and wish Israel a hearty Mazel Tov on 56 years of Independence.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PLAYERS AND COACH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the players of the University of Vermont Men's Basketball Team, and their coach, Tom Brennan, on an extraordinary basketball season.

It is certainly worthy of both recognition and celebration when a team finishes a tough schedule with over 20 wins—UVM went 22–9 on the year—and wins its conference championship. UVM lost its first game in the NCAA tournament to Connecticut, but there is no disgrace in losing to the only team which never lost a game in the entire tournament, for UConn was the eventual champion of the collegiate Division I basketball.

And it is certainly worth acknowledging the excitement that the team evoked all over the state of Vermont; our state is very proud of the wonderful record of this year's glorious team, and of both the men's and women's basketball teams at the University of Vermont in recent years. And the state is very proud as well that Vermont's own Taylor Copenrath was selected to the AP All-America Team, as an honorable mention.

But what the people of Vermont are most proud of, and I include myself in their number, is that this basketball team not only played well on the basketball court, they worked hard and learned well in the classrooms and laboratories that are the heart of our state university. College is, after all, primarily about academics and not athletics.

At a time when the nation, and the NCAA as well, is deeply concerned that many athletes competing in major sports at Division I schools are not graduating from college, when there is widespread concern that often the educational mission of universities is put aside in the interest of athletic success, the men's basketball team in Vermont reminded us all that education and athletics can go together.

Of the 64 teams in the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball tournament, only the University of Vermont had 8 of its players with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. The Catamounts had the best GPA of any team in the 65–team NCAA tournament.

The team's dual achievement—succeeding at the highest level in both athletics and academics—makes Vermont proud, and serves, I believe, as an example to the nation.

Our congratulations go to the members of the 2003–2004 University of Vermont Men's Basketball Team: T.J. Sorrentine, Jack Phelan, Kyle Cieplicki (of Shelburne, VT), Martin Klimes, Mike Goia, Taylor Copenrath (of West Barnet, VT), David Hehn, Germain Njila, Alex Jensen, Corey Sullivan, Matt Hanson,

Scotty Jones and Matt Sheftic (of Essex Junction, VT). And to those who helped them succeed on the court and off: Tom Brennan, head coach; Jesse Agel, associate head coach; Pat Filien, assistant coach; Jeff Rush, assistant coach; Chris Poulin, athletic trainer/strength coach; Reza Mohamed and Amarildo Barbosa, student managers; and Ryan Gore, student athletic trainer.

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, the anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel.

It took a horrific, unimaginable Holocaust for the world to finally acknowledge the need to establish a homeland for the Jewish people, to shield it from the persecution and discrimination that it had endured for generations. That recognition came in 1948, and the State of Israel was born.

Today it is as important as ever to preserve and safeguard this Jewish national homeland and to ensure the security of Israel and its people. Never again should a people face annihilation. That is why a safe and secure Israel is in everyone's interest.

We must continue to strive for a settlement of conflict in the Middle East that guarantees the right of all people in the region to live in peace. That is my wish on this day as we celebrate the independent State of Israel.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSOR CHÈRE GIBSON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this house to honor the accomplishments of Professor Chère Campbell Gibson who will be retiring after 27 years of service to the University of Wisconsin System and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Human Ecology on June 30, 2004.

Professor Gibson received her B.S. from Macdonald College of McGill University in Nutrition, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Continuing and Vocational Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Professor Gibson has had a long, multi-faceted, and distinguished career of teaching, research, and outreach in the discipline of adult education with a particular emphasis on distance learning. She is especially well-known among distance educators around the world. Professor Gibson also has the distinction of being the first faculty member on the UW-Madison campus to teach a course completely on-line. This distinction gave her many opportunities to participate in faculty development workshops around campus and the country as well as involvement in the selection of learner and course management systems.

Throughout her career, she has had an enduring concern about the equality of access to