

Today, tomorrow, and the days that follow—we are and will be less without them. Unfortunately, their loss means that our community will never reach the potential it once could have.

As we have proven countless times, Oregon and the Nation will go on and we will succeed. But we will never forget their sacrifice. Their investment was, is, and will remain—invaluable.

These brave men died because they selflessly chose to charge into harms way to aid strangers in a foreign land that are struggling for freedom. Erik, Justin, and Justin entered combat with full knowledge that their act of duty might well require the last full measure—but they did it anyway.

Although our hearts are filled with anger, frustration, and pain—we must try and remember that these young men lived and died for love: for love of their family, for love of their community, for love of their country, and for love of freedom.

We must turn this loss into something worthy of their sacrifice; we must each find ways every day to remember Lt. Erik McCrae, Sergeant Justin Eyerly, and Specialist Justin Linden, and the sacrifice they made in the name of freedom, so that they will never be forgotten.

SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S
DEMOCRATIC ALLY ISRAEL

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, since its establishment 55 years ago, Israel has built a nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of six wars, unrelenting terrorism, frequent international ostracism, and economic boycotts. The people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic and democratic political system that guarantees the freedoms of speech and of the press, free, fair, and open elections, and respect for the rule of law. For over 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; most importantly, the people of the United States have an affinity for the people of Israel, and regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner.

Because of the confluence of energy, money, weapons and ideology, stability in the Middle East is crucial to America's security and success in the global war on terror. Israel, with its technological capabilities and shared system of values, has a key role to play as the most vital U.S. ally in the region. Strengthening the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation has been at the heart of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) mission since its inception in 1976. Founded as a result of the lessons learned from the 1973 Yom Kippur War, JINSA communicates with the national security establishment and the general public to explain the role Israel can and does play in bolstering American interests, as well as the link between American defense policy and the

security of Israel. Over the years, JINSA has achieved a well-deserved reputation as a credible and independent resource.

I recently met with my good friend Tom Neumann, JINSA's Executive Director, regarding the current situation in the Middle East, particularly Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's controversial plan to withdraw Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip. During that meeting, Tom presented me with a copy of a JINSA Board of Directors' Resolution stressing the importance of American support for the right of the duly-elected Government of Israel to make those decisions independently and not be pressured by friendly or unfriendly governments. As the Resolution says, "the first obligation and chief priority of every sovereign government is to defend and protect its own citizens and territory; and the government of Israel, no less than that of the United States, acts upon that right."

I would like to have the text of this Resolution placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement, and I urge my colleagues to read it in its entirety.

SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC ALLIES
IN THEIR INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Resolution of the Board of Directors of
JINSA

June 6, 2004.

Whereas JINSA is an American non-profit association concerned with American defense policy and the relationship between the United States and our democratic allies, and Israel is one of those allies;

Whereas the first obligation and chief priority of every sovereign government is to defend and protect its own citizens and territory; and the government of Israel, no less than that of the United States, acts upon that right;

Whereas this right cannot be subjugated to demands of foreign governments or entities, irrespective of a country's "best friend" or most important trading partners; [In the case of Israel, these would be the United States and the European Union, respectively.]

Whereas the chief priority of "The Quartet" [the US, the UN, the EU and Russia] is movement on the Road Map toward the establishment of Israeli-Palestinian peace through a negotiated two-state settlement, and any unilateral action by Israel might thus be considered interference with the Road Map process, or more broadly with the "peace process";

Whereas in the view of the Prime Minister of Israel there is no Palestinian partner for steps in the Road Map and instead of waiting for the Palestinians to produce one, he has chosen to make unilateral decisions about how Israel can best protect its citizens during the current war. There is in this an implicit threat that if Israel takes enough unilateral actions, the Palestinians might find themselves with nothing left to decide;

Whereas President Bush officially welcomed Prime Minister Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan and reiterated the United States' "steadfast commitment to Israel's security, including secure, defensible borders;" and President Bush specifically recognized the reality of Jews residing east of the 1948 armistice line and rejected the claims of Palestinians of a right to settle in Israel;

And whereas Israel, being a democracy, has engaged both in an intense national and governmental debate about the parameters of the Prime Minister's plan; Therefore,

The Board of Directors of JINSA resolves to commend President Bush for his clear and forthright commitment (1) to the legitimacy

of Israel as a Jewish state, (2) to the right of Israel to defensible borders, and (3) to a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Palestinians subject to the Palestinians making good their previous security and other commitments;

The Board specifically commends the President's recognition of Israel's right to determine for itself what actions are required to ensure the future safety and security of its people.

The Board strongly hopes that the nature of this recognition is all-encompassing and not just limited to decisions Israel might make with which the United States is in agreement.

Even if JINSA does not agree with some elements of any proposed plan, the Board further resolves to support the right of the duly elected Government of Israel to make those decisions and not be pressured by friendly or unfriendly governments,

The Board strongly believes the President and the American people should be encouraged to tell Israel, our ally in the war against terrorists and the swamps that breed them, that we will stand with it as its government determines what steps are necessary to defend and protect it—as we ourselves have done.

The Board further urges the other members of the Road Map "Quartet," to recognize the right of a democratic country to determine without outside pressure what actions serve the goals of its security and meaningful progress towards peace.

The Board urges Congress to make a similar declaration without reservation.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CITY OF MOUND
CITY, IL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring the sesquicentennial of one of the oldest communities in southern Illinois, Mound City.

In its earliest days, Mound City was known as the "Mounds" because of prehistoric Indian mounds found there. Mound City already had a small settlement located there because of its strategic location as a river trading center and was also well known for its safe harbor and steep river banks.

The original Mound City was platted in 1854. In 1855, the Emporium Real Estate and Manufacturing Company, based in Cincinnati, OH, was organized solely for the purpose of building a community in Southern Illinois on the banks of the Ohio River. The company received \$1.5 million from stock sales and secretly purchased a large section of land adjacent to the newly platted Mound City. The company named the development Emporium City.

The financial backers of the Emporium Real Estate Company had big hopes for Emporium City. At one time, plans even called for a new U.S. Capitol to be located in the new town. The company built a hotel, several warehouses, a foundry, homes and a shipyard, but went bankrupt in 1857 and the two communities merged into Mound City.

The shipyard or the Marine Ways played a key role in the further development of Mound City. The wheels and machinery for the boats