

and Development Act of 2005". I am pleased to be joined in this initiative by the following cosponsors of this legislation: Representative JOHN LARSON, who submitted legislation on this topic in the 108th Congress that has provided a solid foundation for my bill; Representative JO ANN DAVIS, Representative GORDON, Representative KUCINICH, and Representative BOBBY SCOTT. We would welcome additional Members joining us as sponsors once they have had a chance to review the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, progress in aeronautics is crucial to the health of the Nation's air transportation industry, which in turn is crucial both to the continued strength of our domestic economy and to our international competitiveness. In addition, aeronautical goods and services have long provided a major positive input to our balance of trade.

Yet progress in aeronautics is important for reasons beyond the health of our trade balance. Aeronautics R&D can enable advances in the capability of our nation's air transportation system to handle the enormous increases in air travel projected over the next twenty years. Aeronautics R&D can enable more environmentally compatible commercial aircraft, with significantly lower noise, emissions, and energy consumption compared to aircraft in commercial service today. Such new aircraft would not only improve the quality of life but would also open new markets. Aeronautics R&D can also enable new markets and services through the development of technologies that will allow supersonic commercial aircraft to fly over populated areas with no adverse environmental impacts, as well as the development of technologies that will greatly increase the capabilities of rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles to serve civil needs. Finally, aeronautics R&D can lead to new concepts for protecting our Nation.

However, all of the new capabilities that I have described will only be possible if this Nation is committed to making the investments in aeronautics R&D that are necessary to achieve those goals. The unfortunate reality is that America currently is not investing enough in NASA's aeronautics program. Moreover, if nothing is done to correct the situation, NASA's aeronautics program is scheduled to suffer additional cuts over the next five years, cuts that will jeopardize the very foundations of our national aeronautics R&D capabilities.

You don't have to take my word for it—there have been a series of reports by independent committees over the last few years that have expressed deep concern over the state of the U.S. aeronautics R&D enterprise. In addition, the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, on which I am privileged to serve as Ranking Member, held a hearing on March 16th of this year at which all of the distinguished non-governmental witnesses expressed the view that aeronautics is at risk in the U.S. That hearing also highlighted the seriousness with which Europe is approaching future investments in aeronautical R&D. The European governments have made it clear that Europe seeks to become the world leader in aeronautics technology by 2020.

Yet it doesn't have to be that way. It's not inevitable that our national commitment to cutting-edge aeronautics R&D has to decline. We can have an exciting, robust NASA aeronautics program that meets important national needs. We just need to do two things: provide a clear direction for NASA's aeronautics activi-

ties and provide the resources necessary for NASA to maintain a world-class aeronautics R&D enterprise.

That is the intent of the bill that I am introducing today: the "Aeronautics Research and Development Revitalization Act of 2005".

This Act contains a number of important provisions. First, it states clearly and unambiguously that: "It shall be the policy of the United States to reaffirm the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and its identification of aeronautical research and development as a core mission of NASA. Further, it shall be the policy of the United States to promote aeronautical research and development that will expand the capacity, ensure the safety, and increase the efficiency of the Nation's air transportation system, promote the security of the Nation, protect the environment, and retain the leadership of the United States in global aviation." The bill starts with this policy statement because I believe that it is critically important that we have a national policy for aeronautics research and development—one that recognizes the importance of aeronautics R&D and gives some guidance for the conduct of that research.

The bill next establishes three "break-through" R&D initiatives in subsonic, supersonic, and rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicle aeronautics. The intent is to set some challenging R&D goals that will push the state of the art across a range of aeronautical science and engineering disciplines as well as deliver technologies that will change existing air transportation paradigms and help open new markets in an environmentally responsible manner.

The third Title of the bill focuses on ensuring the overall health of the nation's aeronautics research enterprise. To that end, it re-establishes a fundamental research and technology program within NASA that is not tied to specific development projects. NASA used to have such a program, and I believe that, properly managed, it can provide the foundation on which future progress in aeronautics will be based.

I also wanted to ensure that NASA maintains its involvement in Airspace Systems research and Aviation Safety and Security research, because I believe those are crucial to the development of a safe and efficient national air transportation system. At the same time, I want to make sure that NASA's efforts are appropriately aligned with the plans and objectives of the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO)—the interagency office that has responsibility for developing the next generation air transportation system. It is essential that the JPDO succeed, and I believe that NASA's research can play an important role in ensuring its success.

Next, I have included a provision that clearly defines a policy for the operation of NASA's aeronautical test facilities. As was noted at the recent Subcommittee hearing on aeronautics, NASA's full cost recovery policy has had a ruinous effect on the maintenance of its test facilities, and decisions to shut facilities down are being made for budgetary reasons instead of first addressing whether the facilities have strategic importance. This bill would undo that unwise policy.

The bill also highlights a number of other research areas that should be supported. These include hypersonics, a research area in which some exciting accomplishments have been

made over the last several years that offer promise of significant future advances. In addition, the bill establishes speculative research initiatives to develop and test concepts for a zero emissions aircraft and an uncrewed aircraft that could operate in the atmosphere of Mars. These are research initiatives that could help excite the next generation of aeronautics professionals if properly structured to allow significant involvement by the university research community.

With respect to that next generation, the bill recognizes the need to get more American students to pursue studies in aeronautical engineering. To that end, the bill establishes a program of graduate scholarships to encourage students to pursue aeronautical engineering careers.

Finally, we come to the question of funding the programs contained in this bill. While some would argue that we need to double the aeronautics budget immediately if we are to reverse the negative trends in the state of U.S. aeronautics R&D, I do not believe that such an increase is possible in the current fiscal environment. In addition, I do not believe it is necessary over the short term. Instead, I believe that the highest priority is to refocus and strengthen NASA's approach to aeronautics R&D by a combination of challenging R&D projects and wise stewardship of its workforce and facilities. A budget that returns NASA to its FY 2004 aeronautics funding level of \$1.057 billion for FY 2006 and provides modest annual increases over the next five years will do much to put NASA on a path that will allow it to put its aeronautics house in order and position it for a highly productive future.

Mr. Speaker, aeronautics R&D is important to the nation. NASA's aeronautics program has long been the centerpiece of those research efforts. We need keep NASA's aeronautics activities healthy and productive. I believe that the Aeronautics Research and Development Revitalization Act of 2005 can help strengthen the Nation's aeronautics R&D enterprise, and I hope that it will receive early consideration by this body.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 57 years since the founding of the State of Israel. This momentous occasion is not only a day of joy for the people of Israel but for those that cherish freedom and democracy across the world.

The founding of the State of Israel was a miraculous event. In a period of time when the persecution of Jews ran rampant across Europe, Zionist visionaries saw the great need to establish a Jewish State. Theodore Herzl while a reporter on the Dreyfus Affair in France recognized the hostility that existed against Jews and against all odds began to successfully garner support for his idea of a Jewish State.

Mr. Speaker, we all know what the State of Israel has become since those uncertain times. Jews across the globe who were persecuted, be it in Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran or the Soviet Union were able to turn to their

Jewish brethren in the State of Israel to taste freedom and freely practice their faith. The State of Israel aside from being a thriving metropolis with a vibrant economy has become the central location for the study of Judaism and its holy texts.

Since its inception Israel has been fighting a war of terrorism perpetuated against it. I have been pleased throughout my tenure in Congress to stand strongly with the State of Israel in their struggle against terrorism and will continue to do so. We must recognize our allies in the Middle East. Israel has continuously stood with the United States and our interests and I hope that our close relationship will continue to be strengthened as we work to promote our shared values.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding leadership of The Consul General in New York, Arye Mekel, for his dedication to bridging the communities of Israel and New York. Additionally, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York has worked tirelessly to advocate on the behalf of the State of Israel and the New York Jewish Community and I would like to thank them for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here today in congratulating the State of Israel on their Independence and look forward to the alliance between our two countries to continue to grow.

OFFERING CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON ITS
57TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDE-
PENDENCE

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the people of the State of Israel on the celebration of the 57th anniversary of its founding. Known in Hebrew as Yom Ha'atzmaut, this special day marks the historic date in 1948 on which the British Mandate over Palestine expired and the State of Israel was proclaimed.

Each year, this celebration comes on the heels of Yom Ha'zikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, when the nation expresses its eternal debt and gratitude to the more than 20,000 soldiers who gave their lives to secure the country's independence and defend its continued existence.

Israel and the United States have shared a special bond since the founding of the modern Jewish State in 1948. The United States was the first country to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after it was officially created. Since then, our two countries have developed a rock-solid friendship that does not depend on the parties in power either in Washington or Jerusalem. Over the past half-century, bipartisan support for Israel has been a staple of every Congress regardless of which party is in the majority and which in the minority.

Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, a region dominated by authoritarian and military regimes. Our two nations share the fundamental principles of freedom and equality. Both were established by immigrants, who sought freedom from oppression. Both stand as symbols of liberty and pluralism in a world

still marked by authoritarianism and intolerance. Both have provided safe havens for oppressed people from all parts of the globe and both are rooted in the unshakable tenets of democracy, human dignity, individual rights, and religious freedom.

Once again Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to the people of Israel on this joyous occasion.

ISRAEL'S 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me today to honor the nation of Israel on its 57th birthday. On May 14, 1948—the fifth day of Iyar, 5708 under the Jewish calendar—after years without a national homeland, the Jewish people established a new country. As Israelis celebrate their country's 57th anniversary, the international community is celebrating with them 50 years of independence.

In the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the Dallas Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Dallas, DFW International, Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas & the Rabbinic Association of Greater Dallas and other organizations have scheduled a series of events to commemorate this occasion.

As someone with a great interest in Israel, Middle Eastern affairs and world peace, I believe that the political transformations in this region during the past few years have been dramatic. We have come a long way, despite attempts by extreme factions to harm Israel and the cause of peace in the region.

I would like to quote an excerpt from Israel's 'declaration of independence,' published 57 years ago as the British mandate over the area drew to an end: 'We extend our hand in peace and neighborliness to all the neighboring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all.'

It is in that spirit, and with that faith, that I will continue to work with the administration to ensure the United States remains firm in its commitment to the security of Israel and to those principles necessary to guarantee the success of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today marks Israel Independence Day, the 57th anniversary of the founding of Israel. This is a time to recognize a strong, stable, and democratic nation, as well as a loyal ally. The fact that Israel is a thriving country carries significant meaning not only in the Middle East, but also throughout the world. In a short time, Israel has established itself as a rich cultural destination and a center for Jewish beliefs and practices. This is largely because the people of Israel have been car-

rying on their traditions for thousands of years. In spite of its enemies, Israel has continued to grow, inspiring democracy and independence in the region.

When I first visited Israel, I immediately noticed the resilience that showed itself in so many ways. Despite the nearly constant danger, Israelis go about their daily lives without fear. Shopkeepers kept their businesses running, even after their storefronts had been destroyed by terrorist bombings. Worshipers maintained their schedule of religious services, defiant to any threats to their safety. Students packed classrooms during the day, eager to learn about Israel's history. They made it a point to get out and experience that freedom, not letting any scare tactics ruin their lives or dash their hopes for peace. We could all take a lesson from their enthusiasm, their zest for life, and their courage.

Israel continues to serve as a beacon of democracy in the Middle East. The Israeli people have an unrivaled appreciation for their freedoms. You can see it in the public displays of their strong Jewish faith. You will hear it as you walk down the streets, vibrant with markets, artisans, and music. You know it by their involvement in the political process, with each vote regarded as a privilege that their leaders must earn. Their patriotism is evident, and not just on Israel Independence Day, but during the entire year.

For this year's celebration, I want to commend Israel for standing strong in the face of opposition. While there is a lot of work to be done to foster lasting peace in the region, they have much to be proud of. The United States must maintain its support of Israel, especially at this crucial time in history. We have a real chance not only to aid Israel in establishing peace within its own borders, but also to help them set an example of democracy for other countries. It is certain that Israel will have many more Independence Days to look forward to in the future.

HONORING THE 57TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPEND-
ENCE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Israel in celebrating the 57th Anniversary of Israel's Independence.

As Israel's Declaration of Independence states, "The land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people" and on May 14, 1948, the land of their ancestors was returned to the Jewish people.

Shortly after Israel declared its independence, President Harry Truman began what has led to a strong partnership between our two countries by recognizing the provisional Jewish government as de facto authority of the new Jewish state.

Today, 57 years after declaring its independence, Israel and the United States continue to share the common values and ideals of advancing democracy and promoting human rights around the globe. As our strongest ally in fighting terrorism, Israel, a country which has had to fight against terrorism and attacks from its neighbors for its entire existence, continues to play a vital role in promoting American interests.