

A RESOLUTION TO URGE THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution urging President Bush to send a special envoy to the Middle East to focus on solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In my view, we have not committed enough resources to encourage peace in the region.

Maintaining the security of the State of Israel will always remain a priority of Congress and the United States of America.

This resolution does not change our policy for a secure and safe Israel, but acknowledges that we need to play a more constructive role in the region.

I was encouraged to see Secretary Condoleezza Rice make a trip to the region last month.

I was also pleased to see the Quartet recently meet to reaffirm their commitment to the peace process.

These are important steps, but I worry that they will have the same result as similar efforts and we will not see the type of sustained diplomacy required to solve such a complex issue.

I am calling on all my colleagues to help me send a message that we need a new approach. We need a special envoy with the authority to bring all responsible parties to the table.

This role was critical in the 1990s and is necessary today.

This envoy would work with the Secretary of State to ensure a constant, high-level American presence and provide our country with the ability to capitalize on every opportunity for progress.

The United States, Israel and the entire international community cannot afford to miss an opportunity to broker a lasting peace.

A special envoy, with the sanctioned mission of securing a lasting peace through negotiation, must be dispatched to the region.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce this resolution today.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA SIME

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, education is the foundation of a strong nation, and I strongly believe that by investing in education and supporting our teachers, we can maintain American competitiveness in an increasingly global economy.

That is why I am honored to rise today in recognition of Ms. Pamela Sime, a science teacher at Unami Middle School in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. Today, Ms. Sime is here in Washington as one of five finalists nominated for the National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

Madam Speaker, as a teacher in the Central Bucks School District, Ms. Sime has inspired

students for the better part of a decade, and the people of the Eighth Congressional District are lucky to have her. Ms. Sime teaches students a very modern curriculum, emphasizing ecology, energy, and the use of technology. She employs a hands-on, interactive approach to learning. Ms. Sime's students recently released their own science publication and after studying oil, they wrote letters to soldiers stationed overseas. Every year, her students look forward to investigating the disappearance of Skully, the classroom skeleton. In this exercise, students use modern forensic techniques, incorporating real-life applications in their study of science. I believe that great science teachers like Ms. Sime are a big part of why innovation exemplifies the American spirit.

Were Ms. Sime's excellence limited only to the classroom, we would still be proud, but her activities outside of the classroom are equally impressive. She is involved in all aspects of students' lives, and is always available for extra help. This dedication to her students is one of the most inspiring things about Ms. Sime. In a field where our professionals regularly demonstrate uncommon compassion and dedication, the rarefied few that go beyond set a new standard of excellence. That is why it comes as no surprise, Madam Speaker, that Ms. Sime entered the contest not for her own recognition, but in order to secure a grant to further enrich the educational experience of her students.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I am delighted to honor Ms. Sime's achievements. I wish her luck today regardless of the outcome of the competition's final decision, the people of Bucks County are proud of her accomplishments and grateful for her years of service.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 434, the Short Term Extension of the Small Business Administration, SBA, as amended by the Senate. H.R. 434 will provide for additional temporary extension through July 31, 2007, of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. This very important extension is crucial to the success of many small businesses across the country. Our entire Nation's economy relies on the success of small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses represent more than the American dream—they represent the American economy. Small businesses account for 95 percent of all employers, create half of our gross domestic product, and provide three out of four new jobs in this country.

Small business growth means economic growth for the Nation. But to keep this segment of our economy thriving, entrepreneurs need access to loans. Through loans, small business owners can expand their businesses,

hire more workers and provide more goods and services. The Small Business Administration, SBA, a Federal organization that aids small businesses with loan and development programs, is a key provider of support to small businesses. The SBA's main loan program accounts for 30 percent of all long-term small business borrowing in America.

Recently, my colleagues and I were able to restore funding to the SBA's main loan program for small businesses for 2005. And I am confident that we will continue to protect loan programs that will create and expand American small businesses. I have worked fervently and will continue to work to make sure small businesses have access to loans. These loans contribute greatly to the viability of many of these small businesses.

Providing loans for small businesses has also played a role in "Rebuilding the Gulf Coast" contracting opportunities. As of March 6, 2006, the Small Business Administration there have been: 55 Disaster Home Loans approved for \$727,000; 27 Disaster Business Loans approved for \$1,750,800; 17 Disaster Economic Injury Loans approved for \$750,100; and 99 Total Disaster Loans approved for \$3,227,900.

In my own district, small businesses are vital to our economy. That is why I have worked to introduce minority, women, and small business owners to contracting officials at NASA to help promote and develop Houston small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked hard to help small business owners to fully realize their potential. That is why I support entrepreneurial development programs, including the Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center programs. These initiatives provide counseling in a variety of critical areas, including business plan development, finance, and marketing.

I also support investing in the highly successful Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, Program, which offers services to help small U.S. manufacturers stay competitive. These measures are important to keeping jobs here at home, and helping American small business prosper.

Small business owners are leaders in innovation, creative business operations and new technologies and products. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the extension of the Small Business Administration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIME ACT

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to join my House and Senate colleagues today in introducing this important and necessary legislation. I would like to thank Senators DODD and LEAHY and Congressman HULSHOF for their commitment to justice and to the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

Nearly 60 Members of the House of Representatives from across the country joined us in cosponsoring this important and historic bill. There is strong, bipartisan, bicameral commitment to passing and enacting this legislation