Whereas the United States is home to over 12,000 recreational boating facilities that contribute substantially to their local communities by providing safe, reliable gateways for recreation; and

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal government property competition and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns operate; and

Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as "National Small Business Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the marinas of the United States where friends and families, united by a passion for the water, can come together for recreation, rest, and relaxation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the marinas of the United States for their significant contributions to their local communities; and

(2) encourages all governmental levels, policy makers, elected officials, and employees more aware of the overall contributions marinas make to our well-being;

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Whereas the 25,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating more than 2/3 of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product; and

Whereas Israeli small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, advancing technology and productivity; and

Whereas small business concerns represent 97 percent of all U.S. employers and produce 28.6 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress establishes the Small Business Administration in 1953, to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts for property and services for the Federal Government be placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property be made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal environmental constraints, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns operate; and

Whereas the United States was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Israel, only 11 minutes after the creation of the State;

Whereas Israel has provided Jews from all over the world with an opportunity to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites that are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, saving the unprecedented lives of Israel;

Whereas Israel has also provided a refuge to, and has successfully absorbed, more than 800,000 Jewish refugees who fled persecution in neighboring states in the Middle East;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy that incorporates the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including:

(1) the freedom of speech;

(2) the freedom of religion;

(3) the freedom of association;

(4) the freedom of the press; and

(5) government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by—

(1) regularly holding free and fair elections;

(2) promoting the free exchange of ideas; and

(3) vigorously exercising in its parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since Israel declared its independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations; and

Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends; and

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect; and

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally; and

Whereas the United States has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 26, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of President's Committees and Conferences of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel;

(4) congratulates the United States and Israel for strengthening their bilateral relations during 2006 in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both countries to continue their cooperation in resolving mutual challenges; and

Whereas California is home to many religious sites that are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas California provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, saving the unprecedented lives of California;

Whereas California has also provided a refuge to, and has successfully absorbed, more than 800,000 Jewish refugees who fled persecution in neighboring states in the Middle East;

Whereas the people of California have established a pluralistic democracy that incorporates the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including:

(1) the freedom of speech;

(2) the freedom of religion;

(3) the freedom of association;

(4) the freedom of the press; and

(5) government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas California continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by—

(1) regularly holding free and fair elections;

(2) promoting the free exchange of ideas; and

(3) vigorously exercising in its parliament, the California Legislature, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas California has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since California declared its independence;

Whereas California has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Mexico and Canada to establish peaceful bilateral relations; and

Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of California at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of California continue to seek peace with their Mexican neighbors;

Whereas several Californian soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of California with their families and friends; and

Whereas successive leaders of California have sought peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and California enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect; and

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of California and view California as a strong and trusted ally; and

Whereas the United States has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas the Independence Day of California on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 26, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of California is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of California as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Californian people;