

Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, was aware of hostility to the goals of Zionism, but sought that Jews and Palestinians live in peaceful coexistence in his newly formed state. Unfortunately, radicalism and resistance for this peaceful goal only hardened. The many conflicts that ensued, from the Six Day War to the Second Intifada, has made life difficult for all Israelis.

Today, Israel is taking serious steps in hopes of reaching a peace agreement with the Palestinians. In the West Bank, Israel is removing roadblocks and evacuating outposts in order to strengthen Palestinian President Abbas so the Palestinian Authority is capable of implementing a treaty. Unfortunately, in Gaza the militant group Hamas is engaged in the broadest and most significant military buildup in its history with help from Syria and Iran. Hamas is restructuring more hierarchically and using more and more powerful weapons, such as longer-range rockets against Israel's southern communities.

The most serious threats that Israel faces are external. Two weeks ago, Iran announced that they had dramatically increased its capacity to enrich uranium with the installation of 6,000 new centrifuges. In doing so, Iran continued to defy not only the United States but the international community as well. The United States and Israel must continue to provide a united front against this regime, while still reaching out to its people, in order to protect the citizens of both countries and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

With the Arab population in Israel estimated to outnumber Jewish Israelis in the near future, building a lasting peace has never been more necessary to the continued existence of Israel. Fortunately, Israel's economy is strong and growing and the Israeli government is committed to a peaceful solution based upon political realities.

Our greatest hopes lay in the strength of the alliance between Israel and the United States and in the inherent rightness of the democratic values that both countries promote. That is why I am proud to stand in support of H. Con. Res. 322 and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Israel, and I look forward to the continued role as an advocate for democracy in the Middle East.

GEORGE BAYLESS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize George Bayless, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Bayless was recently recognized by the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, for his innovation in developing fishing products.

George developed ENVIOWEIGHTS material for fishing tackle and other weights out of a desire to reduce lead in the environment. This innovative product earned Mr. Bayless the recognition from the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. Mr. Bayless is involved in many other endeavors, including efforts to provide a fishing experience to disabled veterans.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing George Bayless, whose in-

novations in fishing equipment have been truly exceptional. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Bayless in the United States Congress.

DAVID G. BURNET: FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, often referred to as the birthplace of Texas, the communities of Lynchburg and Highlands in east Harris County stand as a constant reminder of the rich history which has shaped the State. Initiatives such as "Project Star" now labor throughout the area to enlighten Texans of their past by highlighting historically significant locations. On March 15, 2008 the culmination of more than 175 years of progress, came to fruition with the opening of the David G. Burnet Park.

Serving as the first President of the Republic of Texas, David G. Burnet was selected to his position by the Revolutionary Convention of 1836. Before his presidency, he purchased 3.7 acres of land from the Lynch family just off of what is now called Burnet Bay, in south Harris County.

This area from 1830 became the first president's Texas homestead. Prior to Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia taking on the project to renovate the park, all that existed to mark David G. Burnet's homestead was a small stone Plaque. More than two million dollars were raised to develop David G. Burnet's homestead, including research for archeological authentication of the area.

Thanks to these much needed improvements, visitors to the historical park will find amongst the playground equipment and future ballpark, educational storyboards illustrating the locations past. These storyboards include information ranging from historical facts about Burnet to recounting life in the 1830's. In the near future "Project Star" and Commissioner Garcia plan to reconstruct, at the park, the first president of Texas' home.

Although David G. Burnet called his 3.7 acres almost 170 years ago home, Texans can still find a connection with him and others of his time from the park. The educational opportunities offered by a visit to David G. Burnet Park are invaluable to all and will serve as a reminder of the areas past for generations to come.

And that's just the way it is.

H. CON. RES. 328, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE WITH RESPECT TO ANTI-LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER NAME-CALLING, BULLYING, AND HARASSMENT FACED BY INDIVIDUALS IN SCHOOLS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, on April 25, 2008, the 12th annual National Day of Si-

lence will be observed. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 328, which supports the goals and ideals of the National Day of Silence.

Despite many misperceptions out there, the reason this day exists is to bring attention to the harassment, bullying, and outright abuse towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) students at schools and campuses across our country.

Four out of five LGBT students experience harassment at schools. Recent studies show that two of the top three reasons students are harassed in school are actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender expression.

The goal of the National Day of Silence is to make schools safer and supportive for every student, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. It's important to recognize that hundreds of thousands of students of all beliefs, backgrounds, and sexual orientations participate in this day.

Harassment and abuse affects all students, and hopefully through this inclusive, collective effort can this hatred be quieted, and eventually silenced.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 100th anniversary of U.S. Army Reserve. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United States Army Reserve, we are afforded the opportunity to recognize the honorable men and women who currently serve and those who have served our Nation in the past.

The origins of the Army Reserve began in 1908 when Congress established a group of 360 doctors, the Medical Reserve Corps, to provide our Nation with a band of trained medical officers during a time of war. From that moment forward, the Army Reserve has played a critical role in securing the safety of our troops and the advancement of our military's missions during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, the Iraq war, the global war on Jihadist terror, and other tumultuous times in our Nation's history.

More than 190,000 soldiers have been mobilized to support the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. Currently, there are more than 26,000 soldiers serving on active duty in support of military operations.

Today, Army Reserve soldiers continue to answer their patriotic call of duty in a variety of ways these include defending our Nation against terrorist attacks, providing humanitarian support and relief operations during national disasters, providing combat service support to warfighting brigade combat teams, and offering unparalleled support to countries around the world as they strive to establish the freedom we often take for granted. The list goes on, and so does the Army Reserve's devotion to our Nation.

Army Reserve soldiers, or citizen soldiers, make up more than half the Army's combat support, and a quarter of its mobilization base expansion capability. The assistance they provide includes combat support, combat service

support, peacekeeping, nation-building, and civil support, and is instrumental in the progress that our military makes each day.

The Army Reserve forms the backbone of our Nation's military. During today's ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army Reserve's 100th anniversary, two young men from the Colorado's Fifth District, Sergeant Erice J. Dwelle and Sergeant Otto Earl Searan Jr., re-enlisted to once again serve our Nation. It is an honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Army Reserve today. I want to thank every single Army Reserve soldier, both past and present, for the patriotism they have displayed through the years and down to today.

INTRODUCING THE SHINGLES PREVENTION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Shingles Prevention Act.

Many of us have had shingles or know of others, especially over the age of 60, who have. In 2006 a new vaccine was created that prevents occurrence of shingles or dramatically reduces the symptoms and pain of shingles. Experts agree that adults over the age of 60 should receive this immunization.

Half of us will experience shingles by the time we are 80. Shingles is a painful skin rash often accompanied by fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach. What is more pressing is that one in five shingles patients will endure post-herpetic neuralgia—severe pain lasting much longer than the rash itself. The pain can be so intolerable that patients are house-bound, and there have been cases of suicide from the disease. Shingles is most common among seniors because the immune system wanes with age, making Medicare beneficiaries the best candidates for the vaccine.

Since its development in 2006, the shingles vaccine has been recommended for adults 60 years or older by the Centers for Disease Control. However, current Medicare Part D coverage of the vaccine is insufficient. Not all beneficiaries are enrolled in Part D or another drug prescription plan. More important, seniors are facing high out-of-pocket costs due to a lack of coordination among doctors, pharmacies, and Part D plans. For example, there is no established direct billing method between doctors and plans for Part D vaccines. Because of this, beneficiaries typically must pay the full price up front, which results in out-of-pocket costs that limit access to those that need the vaccine the most—our seniors.

The billing problem, the resulting low utilization of the vaccine, and costly storage requirements are enough to keep many doctors from stocking the vaccine. When doctors do not stock, beneficiaries' only alternative is to obtain the vaccine from pharmacists. But many states do not allow pharmacies to administer Part D vaccines, so the beneficiary has to take the vial from the pharmacy back to the physician office. Thus, a senior who is thinking about getting vaccinated would have to go first to the doctor's office for a consult, then to the pharmacist, then back to the doctor for the shot.

Not surprisingly, many seniors are not getting immunized against shingles. This low utili-

zation rate contributes to the half a billion dollars of treatment costs per year and, for hundreds of thousands of seniors, many weeks spent suffering from a disease that could have been prevented.

The Shingles Prevention Act will move shingles vaccine coverage to Part B—thus treating it in the same manner as the flu vaccine under Medicare, simplifying the process for physicians and beneficiaries, and lessening the cost burden for our seniors. This is a common sense and cost effective way to increase access to high quality health care for our seniors, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY THE LANDSAT SPACECRAFT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 891, celebrating 35 years of space-based observations of the earth by the Landsat spacecraft and looking forward to sustaining the longest unbroken record of civil earth observations of the land, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Colorado, Representative MARK UDALL. This important legislation recognizes the longest running enterprise for acquisition of imagery of Earth from space.

The program was initiated in 1966 as the Earth Resources Observation Satellites program but was later changed to Landsat in 1975. On July 23, 1972, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched Landsat 1, originally called the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, as the first civilian Earth observation satellite to study the Earth's land cover and monitor natural resources. Since 1972, the Landsat program has continued to collect data without interruption through the successful launches of Landsats 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, and has established the longest and most comprehensive record of global land surface data ever collected.

The year 2007 represents 35 years of continuous collection of space-based observations of the Earth's land cover by the United States Landsat satellites, which have enabled increased scientific understanding of the inter-relationships of the Earth's land cover, energy balance, and biogeochemical processes as well as the realization of numerous societal benefits from the applied uses of the data. The consistency of Landsat data over three decades of acquisition offers opportunities to compare land cover changes over time. Landsat greatly enhances remote sensing science that helps give rise to a global change research plan and international initiatives to study the Earth system. Landsat images are also invaluable for emergency response and disaster relief. Advances made in data reception and processing permit rapid access to imagery in times of natural or human-made disaster. Within hours of data acquisition, the USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science provides relief organizations

worldwide with satellite images for disaster response, as well as image-derived products that incorporate information on population density, elevation, and other relevant topics.

Landsat data illuminated for the first time how human decisions led to large-scale impacts on the environment. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program has recognized Landsat and its 3 long-term data record as instrumental to the study of climate and environmental change, noting that Landsat data are invaluable for studying the land surface and how it affects and is affected by climate. The scientific and societal benefits of the Landsat program and its 35-year data record illustrate the significant return on the public investment in Earth observations and the need for continued support for this critical national asset.

Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to all of the dedicated scientists, engineers, and program personnel who have contributed to the successful development and operation of the Landsat program over the past 35 years. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me and continue to support the Landsat program and data record so as to sustain Landsat's value to scientific research, especially, the study of global climate change, and to the myriad applied uses of the data for societal benefit.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

I am just a few years older than the State of Israel, and I remember, as a little Jewish girl, the pride and joy my family felt that a Jewish state was a reality. My parents expressed tremendous relief that there was now a place in the world safe for Holocaust survivors, and a haven for all Jewish people wherever we may live.

We watched with amazement as an arid land turned green as it was transformed into farms and towns. We ourselves planted trees in Israel by buying a tree certificate and gave it to our family friends on every special occasion, so we could participate in making the desert bloom. We all stood a bit taller, and every Passover, the holiday of freedom, was sweeter because Israel wasn't just a longing of our people, but a real country on the map.

That pride burns brightly today. Sixty years later, Israel has weathered war and terrorism and remains a strong, thriving democracy—the only democratic nation in the Middle East and America's closest friend and ally in the region. Israel has become a resource for the United States and the world because of her groundbreaking discoveries in the areas of medicine, energy, clean water, and security technologies.

On her 60th anniversary, the vibrant Jewish community in the Chicagoland area is proud of Israel's pioneering leadership and the strong United States-Israel bond, and works hard every day to strengthen and refresh that relationship.