

that there is no such thing as a benign occupation, as Israelis had once deceived themselves into believing. Our unit not only arrested terrorist suspects but also dragged people out of their beds in the middle of the night to paint over anti-Israel graffiti and rounded up innocents after a grenade attack just to “make a presence,” in army terminology. At night, in our tent, we argued about the wisdom of turning soldiers into policemen of a hostile civilian population that didn’t want us there and which we didn’t want as part of our society.

A majority of Israelis emerged from the first intifada convinced that we need to do everything possible to end the occupation and ensure that our children don’t serve as enforcers of Gaza’s despair. That was why I initially supported the 1993 Oslo peace process that took a terrible gamble on Yasser Arafat’s supposed transformation from terrorist to peacemaker. And even after it became clear that Arafat and other Palestinian leaders never intended to accept Israel’s legitimacy, I supported the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, simply to extricate us from that region, knowing that we would not receive peace in return.

And now my son is fighting in Gaza. The conflict he and his friends confront is far worse than my generation’s experience in Gaza. In our time, we were confronted with mere rocks and Molotov cocktails; my son faces Iranian-supplied anti-tank weapons—one more price we will pay, along with the missile attacks on our towns, for the Gaza withdrawal, just as the Israeli right had warned.

Still, I don’t regret that withdrawal. If Israelis are united today about our right to defend ourselves against Gaza’s genocidally minded regime, it is at least partly because we are fighting from our international border. My son and his friends have one crucial advantage over my generation’s experience in Gaza: They know, as we did not, that Israel was ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for peace, uprooting thousands of its citizens from their homes and endorsing a Palestinian state. My son confronts Gaza knowing that its misery is now imposed by its leaders. He knows that his country was even prepared to share its most cherished national asset, Jerusalem, with its worst enemy, Arafat, for the sake of preventing this war. That empowers him with the moral self-confidence he will need to get through the coming days. The face of my Gaza enemy was a teenager throwing rocks; the face of Gavriel’s Gaza enemy is a suicide bomber.

But we are hardly free of moral anxiety. Even as I pray for Gavriel’s physical safety, I pray too for his spiritual well-being: that his tank doesn’t accidentally shell civilians, that he isn’t caught in some terrible mistake, which can so easily happen in a war zone where terrorists hide behind innocent people.

For the past eight years, Israel has fought a single war with shifting fronts, moving from suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to Katyusha attacks on Israeli towns near the Lebanon border to Qassam missiles on Israeli towns near the Gaza border. That war has targeted civilians, turning the home front into the actual front. And it has transformed the nature of the conflict from a nationalist struggle over Palestinian statehood to a holy war against Jewish statehood. Except for a left-wing fringe, most Israelis recognize the conflict in Gaza as part of a larger war that has been declared against our being and that we must fight.

But how? Even some right-wingers are saying that we should have declared a unilateral cease-fire after the initial airstrike and then dared Hamas to continue shelling our towns, rather than risk another quagmire. And even

some left-wingers are saying that we should now destroy the Hamas regime and then offer to turn Gaza over to international control or, if possible, an inter-Arab force led by Egypt. Every option is potentially disastrous. Most Israelis agree on two points: that we cannot live with a jihadist statelet on our border, and that we cannot become occupiers of Gaza again.

The despair of Gaza is contagious. One friend, a Likud supporter, said to me, “I don’t know what to hope for anymore.”

Meanwhile, I try to reassure myself about Gavriel’s safety. Growing up in Jerusalem during the suicide bombings in the early 2000s, he has already known danger, intimacy with death. A 13-year-old acquaintance was stoned to death, and was so mutilated that he could be identified only by his DNA. A friend lost the use of an eye in a bus bombing on his way to school. At least now, Gavriel and his friends can defend themselves. Perhaps one reason most of them volunteered for combat units was because now the generation of the suicide bombings can finally fight back.

Just before the conflict in Gaza began, I happened to visit Gavriel at his base. His unit’s barracks had been turned into what young Israelis call a “zula”—a hangout. There were muddy couches, chairs without backs, a darbuka drum, a TV (Jay Leno was on). It could have been a teenage scene anywhere in the West, except that hanging on the walls were Hamas banners captured by the unit’s veteran members in a previous round of fighting in Gaza. In a corner of the room hung a photograph of a fallen soldier. Across the bottom someone had written, “What was the rush, Shachar? Why did you have to leave us so soon?”

Even now, perhaps especially now, I feel that our family is privileged to belong to the Israeli story. Gavriel, grandson of a Holocaust survivor, is part of an army defending the Jewish people in its land. This is one of those moments when our old ideals are tested anew and found to be still vital. That provides some comfort as Sarah and I wait for the next text message.

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem and the author of “At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew’s Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land.”

**CONGRATULATING THE HAMILTON EMERALD KNIGHTS UPON WINNING THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE BOYS SOCCER CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 15, 2009*

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hamilton Central School District Emerald Knights upon winning the 2008 New York State boys soccer class D championship. This was the second state boys soccer championship team in Hamilton Central School’s history, and I am proud to represent them.

On November 16, 2008, the Hamilton Emerald Knights won the New York State class D championship when they defeated the defending state champion Chazy Eagles, also from my upstate New York Congressional District, by a score of 4–3. In that game, the Emerald Knights rallied to come from behind and win

after trailing the Eagles 3–0 with less than 18 minutes to play. Senior midfielder and First-Team All-State selection, Nathan Steward, tallied the Emerald Knight’s first goal in the 63rd minute bending in a 30-yard shot from the right side into the top of the net. Senior midfielder Matthew Broedel cut the Knights’ deficit to 3–2, netting a low shot to the far post with 8:05 left in regulation. Then, with 2:44 remaining, Nathan Steward’s free kick once again found the leg of Matthew Broedel, whose second goal tied the game at 3–3. The game was finally settled only 42 seconds into the sudden death period when sophomore forward Daniel Kraynak scored the game-winner for the Knights on a pass from senior Alex Thompson. William Keever’s three saves in goal and a solid defensive effort helped earn Hamilton its first State championship since 1997. Of note, Matthew Broedel was named championship MVP.

The Hamilton Emerald Knights completed the 2008 season with a record of 22–2. They were coached by Brian Latella and assistant coaches Brian Rose and Trevor Chapman; William Dowland is the athletic director. Other team members were Alex Bowie, Bobby Dick, Phil Douchinsky, James Gorman, Blaine Holcomb, Mikey Jones, Adam MacBain, Brendon Meeks, Daniel Meeks, Jake Smith, Josh Sorosky, Jack Sullivan, Joe Taranto, Drew Thompson, Keith Upton and Tyler White. The scorekeepers were Robert Reed and Tim Noel. The managers were Lucas Ord, Brian Meeks, Ben Knect, and Ryan Tuttle. Team statisticians were Kaitlyn Askew and Alison Hansen.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize the Hamilton Emerald Knights boys soccer team for their significant accomplishment.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE CHARITABLE DRIVING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2009**

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 15, 2009*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act of 2009 to remove a serious “disincentive that limits the participation of many in charitable activities. Charitable organizations play an important role in our society, and it is important that Congress not stand in the way by penalizing those who wish to offer their services to these groups.

Under current law, individuals that volunteer their time and energy by driving their personal vehicles on behalf of a charitable group can end up with an unpleasant surprise in the form of an unanticipated tax bill. Specifically, volunteer drivers receiving reimbursement for the use of their vehicle are taxed on these payments to the extent that they exceed 14 cents per mile. This treatment stands in stark contrast to the 55 cent allowance for reimbursement for the business use of that same vehicle.

The Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act will equalize the tax treatment of charitable reimbursements with those received for business driving because the point of the payment is essentially the same, that is, to cover the cost

of operating a personal vehicle while performing an important service in the pursuit of a greater good.

To achieve this end, my legislation would exclude from gross income any reimbursement received for the use of a volunteer's car while assisting a charitable group, limited only by the cap the Internal Revenue Service sets each year regarding business driving. This treatment would be available only for services provided without compensation and drivers would be required to maintain sufficient records to substantiate the charitable use of their vehicles. Finally, this bill drops the requirement that charitable groups report these reimbursements to the IRS, removing an administrative and paperwork burden that detracts resources from their larger purpose.

Each day, thousands of Americans lend a hand in providing transportation services to a multitude of organizations engaged in good works. These activities include assisting individuals with their routine grocery shopping, providing the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle to transport home-visit nurses during inclement weather, delivering meals as part of a holiday food drive, helping individuals to keep their medical appointments, and many more similar activities.

These volunteer drivers are donating their time and their talents, not their vehicles, and accepting reimbursement for the use of that car, incidental to their time and talent donation, is a reasonable act, which should not result in an additional tax liability. Today, when it comes to driving a personal vehicle, our tax code makes a distinction between business and charitable uses. This distinction is a mistake; it is a serious disincentive to charitable activities, and it should be corrected. I encourage my colleagues to support the continued efforts of our charity-minded constituents by cosponsoring the Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act of 2009.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE  
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill will ensure that health coverage continues for the 7 million children currently covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program, and will extend coverage to an additional 4 million children who are currently uninsured. Without the legislation, the CHIP would end on March 31, 2009.

CHIP provides health care coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. In 2007, more than 240,000 children in North Carolina received health coverage through North Carolina's CHIP, NC Health Choice for Children. Under the legislation, North Carolina's allotment would increase by 81 percent over the current level from \$136 million to \$245 million. North Carolina has 296,000 uninsured children, the sixth-largest number in the country. Two-thirds of uninsured

children in North Carolina live in a home where at least one parent works full time.

As North Carolina's former Superintendent of Public Instruction, I have seen first hand that healthy children are better prepared for learning and success. The Children's Health Insurance Program ensures that America's children are as healthy and productive as possible and that they can grow up to fulfill their potential. Untreated illnesses can have long-term consequences, and access to health care can head off expensive treatments down the road. As a Nation, we must protect our most vulnerable citizens.

I still regret that the bill will be funded by a tobacco-tax increase. The tax in H.R. 2 falls disproportionately on North Carolina, and on the Second District in particular. I understand the burden this will place on farmers who work hard to build a better life for their own children, and I will continue to work to support these families as they adjust to transformations in the global economy. However, with one out of eight children in North Carolina lacking health insurance I will vote for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the children of America's working families.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE  
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong, unwavering, and steadfast support of the reauthorization of SCHIP to provide healthcare for millions of uninsured children. SCHIP is a critical safety net for children. As Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall once said, "The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis." Providing healthcare for low-income children, especially during this economic crisis, reflects a commitment to the least among us as well as sound economic policy. A healthy child is prepared for school and life. A healthy child does not require costly emergency room visits. I applaud House leaders for including mental health parity and dental coverage for children.

In Fiscal Year 2007, SCHIP provided health care to over 345,000 children in Illinois. Unfortunately, due to overwhelming need, Illinois faced a shortfall in federal spending last year. This bill does much to address this gap. Specifically, in addition to preserving coverage for the 7 million children currently in the program, this bill expands coverage to another 4 million children in need.

I want to briefly mention the efforts of Chicago Public Schools in helping low income families overcome many of the barriers that often prevent them from enrolling in SCHIP. The Children and Family Benefits Unit assisted approximately 60 schools in a recent 12 month period, helping over 4,200 families' complete applications to enroll into the Illinois CHIP, including Medicaid. I am proud of this effort in Chicago, and I am pleased that this bill will continue to support such programs.

In closing, this bill will provide much-needed health care for low-income children in Chicago, Illinois, and the nation, and I look forward to this bill being signed into law in the near future.

THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT, AND SECURITY  
ACT OF 2009

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 15, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Madam Speaker, I rise today with my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN DINGELL and almost 15 original cosponsors in strong support of the Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2009, a bill which I am reintroducing for the 1st Session of the 111th Congress.

The comprehensive legislation I am introducing today addresses this crisis and the potential security break-down resulting from the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, and also facilitates the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

The plight of Iraqi refugees and IDP's is worsening by the day. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of families who fled for their safety, are now unable to work and have subsequently depleted their savings in order to survive.

I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to take the lead and provide a 'humanitarian surge' in responding to this crisis. The future of the Middle East depends on it.

I would like to thank Congressman DINGELL for his continued leadership in the House of Representatives on this issue and for his help in drafting this legislation as well as the other original co-sponsors supporting this bill. As I have said on many occasions, this must not be a partisan issue, but rather Congress and the Administration have an obligation to work together before the Iraqi refugee crisis further destabilizes the region.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which will provide much needed relief for Iraqi refugees and IDP's. I call on the leadership of the House to support this bill.

REMEMBERING MAJOR JOHN P.  
PRYOR, MD

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 15, 2009*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Christmas Day, 2008, an enemy mortar round struck the living quarters of Major John P. Pryor, MD, in Mosul, Iraq where he was stationed while on his second tour of duty as an Army Reservist. Major Pryor died of his wounds.

Major Pryor was widely recognized as one of our country's finest trauma surgeons. On the battlefield, he fought to save the lives of