

Sea Otters are the canaries in the coal mine for our coastal health. The Sea Otters are all too effective at monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

California took the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing into law California Assembly Bill 2485, establishing a state fund for sea otter conservation: again this year Californians had the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. I want to emphasize that this means that Californians voluntarily pay a little more on their tax return to help protect these animals. Even during these trouble economic times, more than \$220,000 has already been raised this year.

However, this is a federally protected species and California cannot go it alone. In addition to continuing to work with my colleagues to secure Federal funds to support a continued and complete recovery of the population, I am proud that H.R. 556, The Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act was passed by the House of Representatives this past July. This tremendous success was buoyed by the support and devotion of many people. We are one step closer to making the act into law and bringing needed resources to this threatened species.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife, who carry out the important mission to preserve our nation's wildlife and habitat. I also applaud the other nonprofit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, state and federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern/California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE CSARDAS DANCE COMPANY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the founders, members and performers of the Csardas Dance Company of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate fifteen of years of promoting the history and heritage of Hungary, through the ageless and colorful expressions of the songs and dances of Hungary.

Richard Graber, who grew up in Cleveland as the son of Hungarian immigrants, founded Csardas Dance Company in 1994. He is now the Director of Programs and Services with the Houston, Texas Arts Alliance, and serves on the Board of the Hungarian American Cultural Association of Houston. Christopher L. Smith, former Artistic Director, set a precedent of historical authenticity and keen attention to detail, which still reflect in the brilliant colors and fabrics of the dancers' wardrobes, and also, in the artistic direction of Csardas. Stuart Meyer and Judith Horvath have both served as Csardas Youth Ensemble Rehearsal Instructors, drawing on their backgrounds as professional dancers and instructors. Toni

Gras, Managing Director, has been with the Company for the past ten years. As a child, she performed with Hungarian dance troupes, and her daughter danced for nine years in the Csardas Youth Ensemble.

Over the years, hundreds of young dancers have had the enriching opportunity to be part of the Csardas Dance Company, which continues to inspire and delight audiences throughout Ohio. Since its creation in 1994, the mission of the Csardas Dance Company has not wavered: To preserve and promote the dance, music and song of the people of Hungary. The Company also strives to bolster the public's support of, and appreciation for, the performing ethnic arts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Csardas Dance Company, for enlightening, entertaining and engaging audiences with song and dance that reflect a certain vibrancy in movement and music—bringing to life the age-old stories of village life in Hungary. The Csardas Dance Company is an arts treasure in Cleveland, and its continued existence is vital to the performing ethnic arts foundation of our entire community—serving as an audiovisual record of our heritage and our history and connecting us all through the universal language of dance and song.

REMARKS OF THE ISRAELI PRIME
MINISTER AT THE UNITED NA-
TIONS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I seek to call my colleagues' attention to the powerful and important speech that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered to the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 2009. In it, he calls on all nations to stand with Israel in confronting the threats posed by Iran and by terrorists around the world. This is a conflict between civilization and barbarity, he says, and the record of the United Nations hangs in the balance.

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S
SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, nearly 62 years ago, the United Nations recognized the rights of the Jews, an ancient people 3,500 years old, to a state of their own in their ancestral homeland.

I stand here today as the Prime Minister of Israel, the Jewish state, and I speak to you on behalf of my country and my people.

The United Nations was founded after the carnage of World War II after the horrors of the Holocaust. It was charged with preventing the reoccurrence of such horrendous events.

Nothing has undermined that mission, nothing has impeded it more, than the systematic assault on the truth. Yesterday the President of Iran stood at this very podium, spewing his latest anti-Semitic rants. Just a few days earlier, he again claimed that the Holocaust is a lie.

Last month, I went to a villa in a suburb of Berlin called Wannsee. There, on January 20, 1942, after a hearty meal, senior Nazi officials met and decided to exterminate my People. They left detailed minutes of that meeting and these minutes have been preserved for posterity by successive German

governments. Here is a copy of the minutes of the meeting of senior Nazi officials instructing the Nazi government exactly how to carry out the extermination of the Jewish people. Is this protocol a lie? Is the German government, are all German governments lying?

A day before I was in Wannsee, I was given in Berlin the original construction plans for the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. These plans of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps I now hold in my hand. They contain a signature by Heinrich Himmler—Hitler's deputy himself. Are these plans of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp where one million Jews were murdered, are they a lie too?

This June, President Obama visited another concentration camp—one of many—the Buchenwald concentration camp. Did President Obama pay tribute to a lie?

And what of the Auschwitz survivors whose arms still bear the tattooed numbers branded on them by the Nazis? Are those tattoos a lie too?

One-third of all Jews perished in the great conflagration of the Holocaust. Nearly every Jewish family was affected, including my own. My wife's grandparents, her father's two sisters and his three brothers, and the aunts, and uncles and cousins—all murdered by the Nazis. Is this a lie?

Yesterday, the man who calls the Holocaust a lie spoke from this podium. To those who refused to come and to those who left in protest, I commend you. You stood up for moral clarity and you brought honor to your countries.

But to those who gave this Holocaust-denier a hearing, I say on behalf of my people, the Jewish people, and decent people everywhere: Have you no shame? Have you no decency?

A mere six decades after the Holocaust, you give legitimacy to a man who denies the murder of six million Jews while promising to wipe out the State of Israel, the State of the Jews. What a disgrace! What a mockery of the charter of the United Nations!

Now, perhaps some of you think that this man and his odious regime, perhaps they threaten only the Jews. Well, if you think that, you're wrong—dead wrong. History has shown us time and time again that what starts with attacks on the Jews eventually ends up engulfing many, many others.

For this Iranian regime is fueled by an extreme fundamentalism that burst onto the world scene three decades ago after lying dormant for centuries. In the past thirty years, this fanaticism has swept across the globe with a murderous violence that knows no bounds and with a cold-blooded impartiality in the choice of its victims. It has callously slaughtered Moslems and Christians, Jews and Hindus, and many others.

Though it is comprised of different offshoots, the adherents of this unforgiving creed seek to return humanity to medieval times. Wherever they can, they impose a backward regimented society where women, minorities, gays or anyone else deemed not to be a true believer is brutally subjugated.

The struggle against this fanaticism does not pit faith against faith nor civilization against civilization. It pits civilization against barbarism, the 21st century against the 9th century, those who sanctify life against those who glorify death.

Now the primitivism of the 9th century ought to be no match for the progress of the 21st century. The allure of freedom, the power of technology, the reach of communications should surely win the day. Ultimately, the past cannot triumph over the future.

And our future offers all nations magnificent bounties of hope because the pace of

progress is growing, and it is growing exponentially. It took us centuries to get from the printing press to the telephone, decades to get from the telephone to the personal computer, and only a few years to get from the personal computer to the Internet.

What seemed impossible a few years ago is already outdated, and we can scarcely fathom the changes that are yet to come. We will crack the genetic code. We will cure the incurable. We will lengthen our lives. We will find a cheap alternative to fossil fuel and yes, we will clean up the planet.

I am proud that my country Israel is at the forefront of many of these advances—in science and technology, in medicine and biology, in agriculture and water, in energy and the environment. These innovations in my country and many of your countries offer humanity a sunlit future of unimagined promise.

But if the most primitive fanaticism can acquire the most deadly weapons, the march of history could be reversed for a time. And like the belated victory over the Nazis, the forces of progress and freedom will prevail only after a horrific toll of blood and fortune has been exacted from mankind.

This is why the greatest threat facing the world today is the marriage between religious fundamentalism and the weapons of mass destruction. The most urgent challenge facing this body today is to prevent the tyrants of Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Are the members of the United Nations up to that challenge? Will the international community confront a despotism that terrorizes its own people as they bravely stand up for freedom?

Will it take action against the dictators who stole an election in broad daylight and then gunned down Iranian protesters who died on the sidewalks and on the streets choking in their own blood? Will the international community thwart the world's most pernicious sponsor and practitioner of terrorism?

Above all, will the international community stop the terrorist regime of Iran from developing atomic weapons, thereby endangering the peace of the entire world?

The people of Iran are courageously standing up to this regime. People of goodwill around the world stand with them, as do thousands of people who have been protesting and demonstrating outside this hall all this week. Will the United Nations stand by their side?

Well, ladies and gentlemen, the jury is still out on the United Nations, and recent signs are not encouraging.

Rather than condemning the terrorists and their Iranian patrons, some here in the United Nations have condemned their victims. This is exactly what a recent UN report on Gaza did, falsely equating terrorists with those they targeted.

For eight long years, Hamas fired rockets, from Gaza on nearby Israeli cities and citizens—thousands of missiles, mortars—hurtling down from the sky on schools, homes, shopping centers, bus stops. Year after year, as these missiles were deliberately fired on our civilians, not a single UN resolution—not one!—was passed condemning those criminal attacks. We heard nothing—absolutely nothing—from the UN Human Rights Council, a misnamed institution if there ever was one.

In 2005, hoping to advance peace, Israel unilaterally withdrew from every inch of Gaza. It was very painful. We dismantled 21 settlements—really bedroom communities and farms. We uprooted over 8,000 Israelis. We just yanked them out from their homes. We did this because many in Israel believed that this would get peace.

Well, we didn't get peace. Instead we got an Iranian backed terror base fifty miles from Tel Aviv. Life in the Israeli towns and cities immediately next to Gaza became nothing less than a nightmare. You see the Hamas rocket launchers and the rocket attacks not only continued after we left, they actually increased dramatically. They increased tenfold. And again, the UN was silent—absolutely silent.

Finally, after eight years of this unremitting assault, Israel was forced to respond. But how should we have responded? Well, there is only one example in history of thousands of rockets being fired on a country's civilian population. This happened when the Nazis rocketed British cities during World War II. During that war, the allies leveled German cities, causing hundreds of thousands of casualties.

I'm not passing judgment. I'm stating a fact—a fact that is the product of the decision of great and honorable men—the leaders of Britain and the United States fighting an evil force in World War II.

It is also a fact that Israel chose to respond differently. Faced with an enemy committing a double war crime of firing on civilians while hiding behind civilians—Israel sought to conduct surgical strikes directed against the rocket launchers themselves. Now mind you that was no easy task because the terrorists were firing their missiles from homes and from schools. They were using mosques as weapons depots, as missile caches, and they were ferreting explosives in ambulances.

Israel, by contrast, tried to minimize casualties by urging Palestinian civilians to vacate the targeted areas. We dropped countless flyers over their homes. We sent thousands and thousands of text messages to the Palestinian residents. We made thousands and thousands of cellular phone calls urging them to vacate, to leave. Never has a country gone to such extraordinary lengths to remove the enemy's civilian population from harm's way.

Yet faced with a clear-cut case of aggressor and victim, whom do you think the United Nations Human Rights Council decided to condemn? Israel. A democracy legitimately defending itself against terror is morally hanged, drawn and quartered, and given an unfair trial to boot.

By these twisted standards, the UN Human Rights Council would have dragged Roosevelt and Churchill to the dock as war criminals. What a perversion of truth! What a perversion of justice!

Now, Delegates of the United Nations, and the Governments whom you represent, you have a decision to make. Will you accept this farce? Because if you do, the United Nations would revert to its darkest days, when the worst violators of human rights sat in judgment against the law-abiding democracies, when Zionism was equated with racism and when an automatic majority could be mustered to declare that the earth is flat.

If you had to choose a date when the United Nations began its descent, almost a free fall, and lost the respect of many thoughtful people in the international community, it was that decision in 1975 to equate Zionism with racism. Now this body has a choice to make. If it does not reject this biased report, it would vitiate itself: It would begin or re-begin the process of vitiating itself from its own relevance and importance.

But it would do something else; it would send a message to terrorists everywhere, saying: Terrorism pays; all you have to do is launch your attacks from densely populated areas, and you will win immunity.

And then a third thing: in condemning Israel, this body would also deal a mortal

blow to peace. Let me explain why. When Israel left Gaza, many hoped that the missile attacks would stop. Others believed that even if they didn't stop, at the very least Israel would have made this gesture, an extraordinary gesture for peace, but it would have international legitimacy to exercise its right of self-defense if peace failed. What legitimacy? What self-defense?

The same UN that cheered Israel as we left Gaza, the same UN that promised to back our right of self-defense, now accuses us—my people, my country—of being war criminals? And for what? For acting responsibly in self-defense, for acting in a way that any country would act with a restraint unmatched by many. What a travesty!

Ladies and gentlemen, Israel justly defended itself against terror. This biased and unjust report provides a clear-cut test for all governments. Will you stand with Israel or will you stand with the terrorists?

We must know the answer to that question now. Now—not later. Because if Israel is again asked to take more risks for peace, we must know today that you will stand with us tomorrow. Only if we have the confidence that we can defend ourselves can we take further risks for peace.

And make no mistake about it. All of Israel wants peace. Any time an Arab leader genuinely wanted peace with us, we made peace. We made peace with Egypt led by Anwar Sadat. We made peace with Jordan led by King Hussein. And if the Palestinians truly want peace, I and my government, and my people, will make peace. But we want a genuine peace, a defensible peace, a permanent peace.

In 1947, this body voted to establish two states for two peoples—a Jewish state and an Arab state. The Jews accepted this resolution. The Arabs rejected it and invaded the embryonic Jewish state with hopes to annihilate it. We ask the Palestinians to finally do what they refused to do for 62 years: Say yes to a Jewish state! As simple, as clear, as elementary as that. Just as we are asked to recognize a nation-state for the Palestinian people, the Palestinians must be asked to recognize the nation-state of the Jewish people.

The Jewish people are not foreign conquerors in the Land of Israel. It is the land of our forefathers. Inscribed on the walls outside this building is the great Biblical vision of peace: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. They shall learn war no more." These words were spoken by the great Jewish prophet Isaiah 2,800 years ago as he walked in my country, in my city—in the hills of Judea and in the streets of Jerusalem. We are not strangers to this land. This is our homeland.

But as deeply connected as we are to our homeland, we also recognize that the Palestinians also live there and they want a home of their own. We want to live side by side with them, two free peoples living in peace, living in prosperity, living in dignity.

Peace, prosperity and dignity require one other element. We must have security. The Palestinians should have all the powers to govern themselves except a handful of powers that could endanger Israel.

This is why the Palestinian state must be effectively demilitarized. I say effectively, because we don't want another Gaza, or another South Lebanon, another Iranian backed terror base abutting Jerusalem and perched on the hills a few kilometers from Tel Aviv. We want peace.

I believe that with good will and with hard work, such a peace can be achieved. But it requires from all of us to roll back the forces of terror, led by Iran, that seek to destroy peace, that seek to eliminate Israel and to overthrow the world order. The question facing the international community is whether

it is prepared to confront those forces or to accommodate them.

Over 70 years ago, Winston Churchill lamented what he called the “confirmed unteachability of mankind.” By that he meant the unfortunate habit of civilized societies to sleep and to slumber until danger nearly overtakes them.

Churchill bemoaned what he called the “want of foresight, the unwillingness to act when action will be simple and effective, the lack of clear thinking, the confusion of counsel until the emergency comes, until self-preservation strikes its jarring gong.”

Ladies and gentlemen, I speak here today in the hope that Churchill’s assessment of the “unteachability of mankind” is for once proven wrong. I speak here today in the hope that we can learn from history—that we can prevent danger in time.

In the spirit of the timeless words spoken to Joshua over 3,000 years ago, let us be strong and of good courage. Let us confront this peril, secure our future and, God willing, forge an enduring peace for generations to come.

[Translation from the Hebrew] “The Lord will give strength to His people, the Lord will bless His people with peace.”

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
FRANCES WOLPAW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Frances Wolpaw, devoted wife, mother and accomplished professor, whose passion, integrity and wisdom served to inspire, guide and motivate countless young lives, including my own.

Professor Wolpaw was a former assistant dean and communications professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her scholarly research in speech and rhetoric led her to become a renown expert on the life and words of Abba Hillel Silver, a rabbi from northeast Ohio and advocate for issues affecting Israel on the national and international political stage.

She began her career in education in 1961 as a lecturer at Case Western Reserve University. In 1969, Professor Wolpaw was named assistant dean of Case Western’s former women’s college—the Flora Stone Mather College. Undaunted by the lack of opportunity for women in academia, Professor Wolpaw forged ahead, and her work earned her a high level of respect and admiration from students and faculty. Throughout her career, she had the loving support and encouragement from her husband, the late Ralph Wolpaw, who was a physician at Mt. Sinai Hospital of Cleveland.

Her accomplishments as professor and leader at Case Western Reserve University opened doors for countless women who would follow in her path. As a professor, Frances Wolpaw’s reputation reflected toughness, yet her high expectations for her students was also accented by kindness, fairness and her genuine concern for the welfare of her students. She taught by example, living each day with a sense of wonder, joy and integrity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Frances Wolpaw, whose joy for life, kind heart and

scholarly work and guidance will forever reflect within the hearts and memories of those who loved and knew her best—especially her family, friends, and former students. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Professor Wolpaw’s sons—Jonathan, James and Daniel; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her sisters, and her extended family members and many friends. Frances Wolpaw’s loving devotion to her family and to her community—especially in the way of inspiring and guiding students of all ages—has made our community a better place, and she will be remembered always.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JESSE DONALD PHELPS

HON. WALT MINNICK

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the legacy of Jesse Donald Phelps, Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Class, U.S. Army, an Idaho native who gave his life during the war in Vietnam. Nearly forty-four years after his helicopter crashed in the jungle near An Khe, his remains have been returned to his family.

Officer Phelps was born in Boise on October 1, 1937 and spent his childhood in Nampa. He stayed in Idaho as an adult and married Dee Phelps in 1955, the year that he graduated from high school. In time, he and Dee had four children, and he enlisted in the National Guard before becoming an army pilot.

On December 28, 1965, Officer Phelps was part of a four-person U.S. Army Huey helicopter crew charged with delivering munitions and supplies to a group of soldiers through the An Khe Pass, in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. The routine mission was only meant to take 30 minutes, and 8–10 minutes after takeoff, the crew radioed their target company to say that the weather “doesn’t look bad.” It was the last communication from the plane, which disappeared into the trees shortly thereafter. Search efforts were fruitless, and Officer Phelps and his crew were later pronounced “Died While Missing/Body Not Recovered.” Ten years after her wedding, Dee Phelps received a telegram informing her that her husband was gone.

Thanks to more recent search efforts and DNA testing, Officer Phelps’s wife, children, and grandchildren can be certain that the head of his family has returned home once more. I and the people of Idaho value his sacrifice and honor Officer Phelps’s commitment to serving his country. We owe the strength of our nation to the steady courage of veterans like Officer Phelps.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JOHN
ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF
1969

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the John Adams High

School Class of 1969 as they commemorate their 40 Year Reunion Celebration. The 1969 alumni of the John Adams Rebels will observe this momentous occasion on Saturday, August 8th, 2009.

John Adams High School opened in 1923 at East 116th Street and Corlett Avenue. The school was home to generations of Cleveland teenagers for decades, until it was closed in 1995, along with West Technical, and Aviation High Schools, to help cut the cities budget. John Adams High School was representative of the strong public education system, working class family environment and racial and cultural diversity that characterizes the city of Cleveland. After eleven years, John Adams High School was rebuilt and reopened in 2006.

The class of 1969 was a cohesive and talented group who has since moved throughout the country, spanning from California to New York. But they maintained a strong base in the Cleveland area. This group of alumni is clearly dedicated to each other, and they have gathered for several reunions throughout the decades since their graduation. This reunion will surely be another success as they come together again to celebrate each other and the significant and momentous occasions that have taken place throughout their lives.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the John Adams High School Class of 1969 as they gather for their 40 Year Reunion Celebration. Their dedication to their past educational achievements and city of Cleveland is sure to provide for a joyous and memorable occasion.

BASIS CHARTER SCHOOL

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nationally acclaimed BASIS Charter Schools, which provide outstanding educational services in Tucson, Arizona.

American students often lag behind their counterparts in other countries and we know that action must be taken to reverse this trend. BASIS Charter Schools give us a national model that demonstrates how we can effectively address this serious decline in educational performance.

Ten years ago, Michael and Olga Block embarked on their mission to create a “New American” school. They established the BASIS Charter Schools. The BASIS philosophy understands that math and science are essentially the languages of the 21st century.

These forward-thinking founders say that great teachers are responsible for the schools’ successes. At BASIS, the teachers hold themselves and their students to high standards and levels of accountability. Students engage in a demanding course of study that gives them the skills needed to compete in the new global economy.

BASIS has received many well deserved awards. The high school has been selected in each of the last four years by Newsweek magazine as one of the top 10 high schools in the United States. During the 2008–2009 academic year, BASIS students received perfect