

of planaria. The student will be competing in the International Science Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles, California, in May. The next student, a junior, will also be competing in the fair for her second year in a row. The student used the Eratosthenes's Theory, to determine the diameter of the earth.

A sixth grade teacher in the district's Robert E. Aylor Middle School, in Stephens City explained the Discovery Education online science module, which is used throughout the district in the middle schools. He explained that the program is used to let the students interact and manipulate investigations as they are learning science material.

At the end of my visit, Superintendent Patricia Taylor was awarded the Discovery Education's Visionary District Award by the Vice President for Discovery Education. I am proud to have such an outstanding school in my district. I congratulate the school for recognizing the importance of providing our youth with the tools to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 10, 2011, I unfortunately missed a series of votes. If I was here, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 299, "no" on rollcall No. 300, and "no" on rollcall No. 301.

U.S.-KOREAN RELATIONS

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to represent the people of California's 33rd congressional district, which is a microcosm of America. The cultural and economic vibrancy of the communities in our district is possibly matched only by its vast diversity.

I am proud that the 33rd district includes Koreatown, the home to many Korean-Americans and recent immigrants from Korea. By some estimates, there are more Americans of Korean descent living in this neighborhood than anywhere else in the United States.

It should come as no surprise, then, that my constituents and I have strong concerns about U.S.-Korean relations. We celebrate the military and diplomatic alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea that has entered its seventh decade. We encourage Korean students who come to American colleges and universities to pursue their educational goals, and we welcome Korean businesses that invest in the United States and engage in trade with American businesses and consumers.

It was with great interest that I was able to travel to the Republic of Korea last month through their Congressional Member Exchange Program. Over the short course of three days, I participated in a packed itinerary of meetings with Korean government officials,

business leaders, American diplomats, and members of the U.S. armed forces stationed in Korea.

One truly powerful moment came on my first full day, when I visited the Demilitarized Zone, DMZ, including the Joint Security Area. Gazing out over the barren border area into North Korea was a truly eye-opening experience for me.

In addition to meeting with Korean executive branch officials—including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Sung-Hwan Kim, Deputy Minister for Trade Seok-Young Choi, and National Security Advisor Yung-Woo Chun—I was also able to meet with our legislative counterparts in the Korean National National Assembly, including the chairman of the Unification, Foreign Affairs, and Trade Committee (the equivalent of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs), the Honorable Kyung-Pil Nam.

All of these meetings were informative, productive, and educational. I learned so much about the history and the breadth and scope of the U.S.-Korea alliance partnership.

Meetings with business leaders were equally fruitful. It was my pleasure to attend a dinner hosted by AMCHAM, the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea, and I am grateful for the time I was able to spend with Amy Jackson, the AMCHAM president.

Similarly, a tour of the Hyundai Motors corporate headquarters and of the company's research and development facility in Hwaseong was particularly valuable. Hyundai has significant investment in the United States, including several engineering and design facilities in California, not far from Los Angeles, as well as in several other states. If one includes all their dealerships and repair shops, Hyundai employs over 30,000 American workers.

One of the topics that came up over and over during my visit to Korea was the much discussed trade agreement between our two countries. The Korean government officials and business leaders I met tried very hard to persuade me that the agreement should be ratified soon. It is an issue I continue to follow closely, seeking out insights and analysis from a wide spectrum of individuals within my congressional district and beyond. This visit to Korea further expanded my horizons and the knowledge gained was invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Korean Government for the opportunity to visit their country through the Congressional Member Exchange Program. Prior to my departure, I had the opportunity to have breakfast with Korea's Ambassador to the U.S., Duk-Soo Han, and our discussion was very insightful with respect to all the challenges and opportunities on the Korean peninsula. As I represent the congressional district with the largest Korean-American constituency in the United States, I also look forward to returning to Korea to continue building on the relationship with our great friend and ally.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER DENNIS WEEZORAK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Father Dennis Weezorak as the

members of St. Mary's Parish gather to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Throughout his professional career, Father Weezorak has spiritually guided and mentored many parishioners. His honorable actions are worthy of this body's recognition.

Father Weezorak was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1986 in the Cathedral of St. Mary in Ogdensburg, New York by Bishop Stanislaus Brazana. He began his career as an Associate Pastor and Administrator in St. Patrick Parish in Watertown, New York. During his tenure, Father Weezorak also served as Associate Pastor at three different New York State Parishes: St. Peter, St. Mary and St. Thomas. Father Weezorak later served in the military chaplaincy for the United State Air Force at various locations including Lackland Air Force Base and the hospital chaplaincy at Wilford Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. He was finally installed as Pastor at St. Mary Parish in South Amboy, New Jersey on October 26, 1997.

In addition to his parish duties, Father Weezorak is active with the Municipal Alliance for Drug Abuse for the Township of South Brunswick/Monmouth Junction, New Jersey. He also remains an active member of the Sayreville/South Amboy Chapter of Rotary International. Father Weezorak earned a bachelor's degree in business from Pennsylvania State University and attended St. John Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the son of Pauline and the late Robert Weezorak. He has one brother and sister.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Father Dennis Weezorak upon the celebration of his twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and also for his leadership and service to the community.

RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Israeli Independence Day. Sixty-three years ago this week, the dream of so many Jewish people around the world became a reality. From desert and swampland emerged a nation that is now a leader in technology, medical advances and environmental research; and from the ashes of the Holocaust, a people was reborn.

Israel remains an important strategic ally and the only true democracy in a very unstable part of the world. In the wake of World War II and its tragic legacy for the Jewish people, the United States has considered the existence of Israel a profound moral and spiritual imperative and was the first nation to recognize the state of Israel in 1948.

Even sixty-three years later, however, there are ongoing threats to Israel's stability. It is critical that all parties in the region recognize Israel's right to exist as well as Israel's right to insist on the basic security of its citizenry. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor the men and women who have fought to defend Israel's independence year after year, to those who keep the hope for peace in the forefront