

hit *To All the Girls I've Loved Before*, which was recorded by Julio Iglesias and Willie Nelson.

Hal David has not spent all of his time writing songs. Throughout his great career, Mr. David has served in several leadership roles in his industry. From 1980–1986, Hal served as President of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), focusing on legislative issues facing music creators. During his tenure as President, Hal oversaw the expansion of ASCAP's presence in the area of country music. To this day, Hal continues to serve on ASCAP's Board of Directors.

For a decade, 2000–2010, Mr. David served as Chairman and CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. During this time the Songwriters Hall of Fame established an important digital presence with its Virtual Museum and, most recently, the launch of the Songwriters Hall of Fame Gallery Museum in Los Angeles.

The recipient of numerous awards throughout his career, Hal David has been inducted into both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. He has received the Recording Academy's Grammy Trustees Award and the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Even the British Performing Rights Society honored the Brooklyn native with one of its most prestigious awards.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish Hal David much happiness on his 90th birthday and send our

best wishes for 90 more years of health, happiness and hits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent because of a family illness on May 13th 2011. If I was present, I would have voted on the following: H.R. 754—rollcall No. 323: “nay”; H.R. 754—rollcall No. 324: “aye”; H.R. 754—rollcall No. 325: “aye”; H.R. 754—rollcall No. 326: “aye”; H.R. 754—rollcall No. 327: “aye”; H.R. 754—rollcall No. 328: “aye”; and H.R. 754—rollcall No. 329: “aye.”

ISRAELI 63RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel on the celebration of its 63rd Independence Day. I am a strong supporter of the State of Israel and believe in its right to exist as a Jewish and

democratic state with secure and recognized borders.

As our strongest democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel is a crucial friend of the United States, and its continued strength and stability are in our nation's best interest.

The past several years have been a challenging time for Israel. Israel continues to face danger on many fronts, from the ongoing threat of terrorism to the potential rise of a nuclear-armed Iran. Peace and stability in Israel and the Middle East at large are still a possibility. Despite recent events with Fatah and Hamas, I hope that Palestinian authorities will be willing to come to the table and negotiate peace with their Israeli neighbors. I trust that new commitments and agreements are reached that enable these two states to live peacefully with one another.

I will continue to advocate for policies that make Israel more secure and work to alleviate the tensions in the Middle East, and I urge my colleagues to join me. As a member of the Israel Allies Caucus, I have been an active advocate for Israel and its people. I know the people of Israel want to live in peace with their Palestinian neighbors, and I will push for continued American engagement in the peace process. Together, the United States and Israel will continue to work in partnership to bring peace and security to the Middle East. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Israel on their 63rd Independence Day.