

Upon moving to Cleveland, Ida met and married Army Master Sergeant James Cook. Together, the couple has two daughters, Patricia and Paula. Because of James' career, the family often traveled to places such as Germany, France, Japan and Korea. Twelve years after the tragic passing of Mr. Cook, Ida remarried the Reverend Dr. Roland Crowder of Cleveland's Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

Ida was a skilled seamstress who attended the Clark School of Dressmaking and Cuyahoga Community College, from which she earned an associate degree in decorating. She was well known throughout the Greater Cleveland area for her ability to design draperies. She ran her business under the name of "Ida's Draperies."

I offer my condolences to her family and friends at the Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Ida's spirit and kindness will be missed by all those who had the pleasure of meeting her.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Ida Cook-Crowder.

BRIAN SOUKUP

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brian Soukup for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brian Soukup is a 12th grader at Arvada Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brian Soukup is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brian Soukup for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 64TH  
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2012*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, sixty-four years ago the state of Israel declared its independence. As Israelis celebrate their Independence Day on Thursday of this week, I offer my wholehearted congratulations to our most cherished ally.

For millennia, the state of Israel was merely a dream to the Jewish people. In 1948, under the leadership of Holocaust survivors who had resolved to overcome mid-Twentieth Century Europe's atrocities, the state of Israel declared independence in its ancient Holy Land and that dream became a reality.

The United States promptly recognized Israel, but she was met with open hostility from her Arab neighbors.

Sixty-four years later, in many respects it seems as though very little has changed. However, we know that Israel prevailed against overwhelming odds in 1948, in 1967 and in 1973 and countless other times. Undoubtedly, Israel is an overwhelming success in a region plagued by conflict.

In a neighborhood of sworn enemies, Israel is a beacon of hope. It boasts a vibrant economy and a well-educated populace whose values and interests are much the same as ours. Israel is the only functioning democracy in the Middle East, and I join my colleagues who, on a bipartisan basis, have time and again stood by her in times of trial.

Freedom-loving nations have a duty to stand with Israel much like Congress has over the years. With a growing threat from an increasingly hostile Iranian regime, a regime that has threatened on more than one occasion to 'wipe Israel off the map,' let us recommit ourselves to the defense of the state of Israel. As we celebrate the 64th anniversary of her founding, the United States must renew its commitment to preserve and protect Israel and stand firm as Israel's closest friend.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FLORENCE JODZIES TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY LIBRARIES ACROSS VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the ongoing work of the Vale Club and the Oakton Womens' Club to promote education and engagement on civic, cultural and social welfare issues in our community. I also join them in celebrating the contributions of Florence Jodzies, a leading voice in the effort to provide public library services across the Commonwealth of Virginia during the early 20th century, with the dedication of a highway marker in her honor near the Vale community. It is fitting to reflect on that legacy today, April 24, 2012, on the 212th anniversary of the founding of the Library of Congress and as we near the end of National School Library Month.

Mrs. Jodzies moved in 1934 to the Vale community of Fairfax County, where she promptly joined the local Home Demonstration Club, which was then an outreach program under the cooperative extension. Through her involvement with the club, she soon launched an impassioned campaign to stimulate interest in reading, to provide reading material and to help communities establish libraries. In a 1938 article in "The Southern Planter," Mrs. Jodzies wrote that reading of high class literature was necessary to humanity's progress and happiness. "Free libraries are essential instruments of education, information, research, culture and recreation—all necessary factors in any democracy which expects to remain a democracy," she wrote.

The fact that more than half of Virginia's residents at the time had no access to a library was a motivating factor. Within two years, every county in the Commonwealth with

a Demonstration Club boasted an active library program. In addition, it was thanks to her efforts that Virginia's governor provided funding for construction of the first state library building with the assistance of a federal grant. In recognition of her efforts, Mrs. Jodzies was appointed by two successive governors to represent the Commonwealth at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in 1937 and 1938. In addition to her work to promote community libraries, Mrs. Jodzies was active with the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Professional Women's Club, Community Chest, and the County Advisory Council. She and her husband relocated to Winter Haven, Florida, before she died in 1969 at the age of 82.

She was an early pioneer for the Fairfax County Public Library system, which now boasts eight regional branches and 14 community libraries. It is one of the largest and busiest library systems in the nation with more than half a million library card holders, more than 13 million items loaned out each year, and more than 4.5 million visits to its online resources. The Fairfax system also hosts more than 8,000 events annually, attracting 150,000 attendees, and countless volunteers donated more than 155,000 hours of work to their community branches last year.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Jodzies once wrote that she and other Demonstration Club members would "march on . . . until every man, woman and child in Virginia has public access to books." Thanks to her tireless efforts, we have realized that vision, and thanks to the ongoing work of the Vale Club and the Oakton Women's Club, future generations will continue to benefit from the legacy of Mrs. Jodzies and other community leaders who followed in her footsteps. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the tremendous service of these outstanding community volunteers and organizations.

COMMEMORATING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2012*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I stand to commemorate the Armenian Genocide on the 97th anniversary of its occurrence. It is unfortunate, however, that once again I do so without an official recognition on behalf of the American government.

As I have said in years past, the undeniable genocidal actions by the Ottoman Empire against its Armenian citizens deserve official recognition from the American government. 1.5 million Armenians were killed, the first genocide of the 20th century. As a member of the House Armenian Issues Caucus, I have cosponsored legislation to affirm the U.S. position on Armenian Genocide and will continue to urge my colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration to support this position.

As we mourn the lives of those lost, it is important to recognize the resilience and incredible strides the Armenian people have made in recovering from that unspeakable past. I stand in solidarity with the Armenian people and renew my commitment to pursuing a future of reconciliation and peace.