

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL RICHMOND 1998 OAK CREEK CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly outstanding resident of my congressional district, Mr. Michael Richmond, whose years of dedicated service to his community and his country have been recognized as he has been named 1998 Oak Creek Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Richmond has made a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of Oak Creek, Wisconsin youth, first as a classroom teacher from 1974 to 1985, then as Athletic Director for the Oak Creek-Franklin School District from 1985 to the present. He has worked countless hours coaching boys and girls in track and cross country, as well as acting as the boys swimming and basketball coach. In 1984, he was named District 7 Cross Country Coach of the Year. Mike has also served as a volunteer coach for a number of basketball camps and tournament teams for the school district.

In addition to the many significant contributions Mike Richmond has made during his tenure as Oak Creek Athletic Director, he also served his country for 21 years as a member of the 84th Division of the U.S. Army Reserves, and was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year from 1983-1986. Mike's dedication also extends into the community of Oak Creek, where he has been involved in a number of activities, including community run/walks to raise funds for the community center, and city cleanup activities.

Mr. Richmond is an active member of the Oak Creek Education Association, having served for 24 years as chairperson of Public Relations, and is also a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Association, the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association, the WADA National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, and St. James Catholic Church.

Mike is a caring and devoted educator and an excellent role model for Oak Creek youth. He is also a devoted family man who has been married nearly 28 years to his wife, Judy, and has been blessed with three children, Chad, Mark and Beth. Please join me in honoring Mike for all he has done to help make the City of Oak Creek such a special place to live and work.

A heartfelt congratulations to Michael Richmond, 1998 Oak Creek Citizen of the Year!

SPEAKER GINGRICH AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER GEPHARDT SHOW BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week a bipartisan congressional delegation led by our

colleagues, Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH and Democratic Leader RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, visited Israel to celebrate 50 years of friendly relations between the Congress of the United States and the State of Israel.

This was an extraordinary occasion, Mr. Speaker. The visiting Members of Congress spent many hours in serious and substantive meetings with the President, the Prime Minister, leading members of the Israeli Cabinet, and our counterparts who serve in the Israeli Knesset across the whole political spectrum.

During this visit, Mr. Speaker, significant remarks were made on a number of occasions by the leaders of the U.S. Congressional delegation. Two speeches on two separate occasions, however, stand out in my mind as being particularly important. The first was the address to the Knesset by our Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH on May 26. The second was the speech by Democratic Leader RICHARD A. GEPHARDT at the Gala Dinner at the Israeli Knesset Honoring Fifty Years of Congressional-Israeli Friendship on the evening of May 25.

Mr. Speaker, I include these two addresses to be included in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to consider thoughtfully these two statements on the importance of the United States relationship with Israel as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel.

ADDRESS OF SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEWT GINGRICH TO THE ISRAELI KNESSET—MAY 26, 1998

Speaker Dan Tichon and Mrs. Tichon, ministers and deputy ministers of the government of Israel, members of the Knesset, former Knesset, speaker Shlomo Hillel, former members of the Knesset my congressional colleagues, distinguished guests and friends—and as I look out, I see friends, many of whom go back for many years.

It is a great honor to stand before you today in the Knesset, the one truly democratic parliament in the entire Middle East. For 50 years, the Knesset has led a nation that has gathered in people from over a 100 lands, survived the perils of many wars and built a thriving nation out of the desert.

As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the last 50 years, let me simply say "Kol ha kavod"—to you."

Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt and I have joined with the largest bipartisan gathering of congressmen and senators ever to visit Jerusalem. We are here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Israel's rebirth as a modern state. We commemorate 50 years of a close and cooperative relationship between our two countries and our two peoples.

In a sense, however, we are not only celebrating the last 50 years. The American and Israeli people are bound together by 3,000 years of a shared and ancient tradition. We are bound together by a common spiritual experience. It is a bond that is felt most powerfully here in this city. As we overlook Jerusalem, and look at the sights that touched the lives of Abraham, David and Christ, we understand the depth of a relationship that is far more than shared geo-political interest.

We are bound together morally. Our two countries are committed to freedom, democracy, the rule of law and individual rights.

We are bound together by pure friendship. It has been a privilege for me to return to Israel and spend time with our leaders, some of whom I've known for almost 20 years for Marianne, it has been a chance to see friends she worked with on the Israeli free trade zone issues.

A member of our delegation, Congressman Tom Lantos, a survivor of the Holocaust, first visited Israel in 1956. And this is his 57th trip to visit Israel. Two key chairmen in our delegation, Bob Livingston and Ben Gilman, have coupled their leadership in Congress with a deep understanding and love for the land and people of Israel. Another member, Congressman Henry Waxman, returns to Israel often to visit his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren who live here.

The ties that bind America to Israel are greater than the economic and security interest that our nations share. We are two nations grown from a common source—both forged by the courage and imagination of pioneers, and both expressing in our founding documents our ultimate reliance on divine providence.

As we celebrate with you, we remember together the courage of David who established Jerusalem 3,000 years ago as the political and spiritual capital of the Jewish people. We commemorated that event the last time Marianne and I saw Prime Minister Rabin alive at an event in our Capitol, in the rotunda, to celebrate the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem. Prime Minister Rabin spoke with deep emotion of his own ties of Jerusalem, the city where he was born and the city he fought to defend throughout this life. We in Congress stood with him then and stand with you today in recognizing Jerusalem as the united and eternal capital of Israel.

We remember the commitment of the early Zionists who convened the first Zionist congress a century ago, lived through the horror of the Holocaust, and finally witnessed the birth of a Jewish homeland in Eretz Israel.

We remember the story of the last 50 years, of a state that has survived wars and countless acts of terrorism to maintain its place among the nations.

We remember with you because we believe that the anniversary of Israel's rebirth is not just a celebration for Israel alone. It is a celebration for all who are inspired by the faith that was born in this land. It is a celebration for all who see in Israel an outpost in the struggle for freedom across the globe. And it is a celebration for all who see in the fundamental relationship between our two countries a remarkable history and a great hope.

For we are here to celebrate more than the first 50 years. In a sense, we're here to celebrate the first 3,000 years.

And we're not just here to look ahead with you for the next 50 years. We dream of how we—and our children—can build a future that holds more than the hope for mere survival—a future that can lead to a lasting prosperity, an enduring peace and a truly free land.

Such a future—one marked by peace, prosperity and freedom—must be built upon an unending commitment to security for those who seek peace.

One of our greatest presidents, Ronald Reagan, had a simple strategy to expand freedom across the globe. It came down to three words: peace through strength. He knew that strength was the key to security and that security was essential to peace. He knew that a lasting peace required a durable security.

This truth was reinforced for me in a personal and powerful way during this trip to Israel. On Sunday, we visited the Weizmann Institute where we met with some of your most talented scientists to learn about the technological breakthroughs that will shape our mutual future. As we were leaving, I spoke to Manuela Dviri, whose son Yoni was killed in Lebanon on February 26 of this year. A 20-year-old staff sergeant from Kfar Saba, he served in an intelligence unit and died when a mortar round struck his position. Manuela had, in Abraham Lincoln's

words, "laid the most costly sacrifice on the altar of freedom." She had lost her son. She still has another son and a daughter and a granddaughter. Yet she said to me—unambiguously—that she did not believe peace could come without security and this was her formula: "You should not need two words," she said, "Peace has within it the word security. When you say peace, it must include security or it has no meaning." While this tragedy has deprived Manuela of Yoni, I know the deepest hope that she has for her granddaughter, Gali, is a future of peace, freedom and security.

We join Manuela Dviri and the rest of the Israeli people in their aspirations for peace. No one can understand the depth of that aspiration unless they have lived so long without peace. And no one can hope to achieve true peace unless it is always coupled with true security. The peace process must ensure that Israel will retain the ability to protect its own citizens from terrorism. It must ensure that Israel maintains secure borders with its neighbors. Without establishing those realities, it cannot succeed.

For this reason, we support the Clinton administration when it says that Israel alone must determine its security needs. We cannot allow non-Israelis to substitute their judgment for the generals that Israel has trusted with its security. If Israel is to take risks for peace, as she has often done in the past, it must be risks she accepts, not risks that are imposed upon her.

While the peace process is designed to provide security within Israel and on her borders, perhaps the greatest threat is beyond the peace process. Israel and the United States now face a growing threat beyond the horizon—weapons of mass destruction in the hands of outlaw dictatorships.

Through our victory in the Cold War, the United States and its allies defeated Soviet communism. In the subsequent years, however, rogue regimes in countries like Iraq, Iran, North Korea and Libya emerged from the shadows of the vanishing Soviet empire. In the hands of these dictatorships, weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them have become a dangerous threat to Israel, to the United States and to our allies.

Like few others on the planet, Israelis know the real palpable threat from dictatorships that are methodically developing these weapons and delivery technologies. In 1991, 28 Iraqi Scud missiles rained down on Israel, inflicting casualties and portending Israel's vulnerability. We, too, know the consequences of these weapons. Thirty-eight young Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud struck their barracks in Dhahran.

Despite the partial effectiveness of Patriot missiles, at times our only defense was the inaccuracy of the Scuds themselves. In our review of the Gulf War, we discovered that not one Scud or Scud launcher was confirmed as destroyed on the ground in Iraq despite a great effort to do so.

Since 1991, rogue dictatorships have relentlessly worked to improve both their weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Nevertheless, in some quarters, there is a breathtaking avoidance of what these facts imply. If dictatorships work while democracies talk, a catastrophe will become inevitable. For democracies to survive and dictatorships to fail, we must establish a vision of a secure democracy and we must implement three parallel strategies to achieve that vision. Our success must be built on the strategies of containment, defense and replacement.

First, we must put unrelenting pressure on anyone assisting these outlaw dictatorships with their weapons programs. We cannot have normal relations with governments, either tolerating or encouraging assistance to

these dictatorships, whether the governments are active participants or acquiescent partners.

Due to Russian assistance, Iran will reportedly be able to manufacture its own medium-range ballistic missiles by the end of this year, capable of striking Israel and parts of Europe.

Russia has also assisted Iraq with its own weapons program. It is time for our patience with the Russian government to come to an end.

It should be clearly communicated that Russia's relationship with the United States and Israel—and other nations of the West—will suffer if its actions do not match its commitments. The same message should be expressed to others, including China, who assist these countries in their nuclear, chemical, biological and missile programs. We have a range of policy instruments at our disposal, including diplomatic and economic levers, and we should be prepared to use them.

The United States must make clear that stopping Iraq and Iran from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is its most intense goal. And we should organize our allies to jointly prevent these dictatorships from acquiring weapons of terror.

Second, we cannot rely solely on containment to protect us from rogue dictatorships developing these capabilities. As these countries develop more and more accurate guidance systems for their missiles, with increasingly virulent biological and chemical warheads, it will become even more urgent to develop effective defenses against these systems.

In the United States today, we do not have the military capability to stop even one theater or intercontinental ballistic missile from reaching its target. Our senior military officers would be reduced to scanning the horizon like the rest of us, watching for the missile that could destroy our city, our family, our home. We are totally vulnerable. But we are told that a 25-year-old treaty with a nonexistent entity—the Soviet Union—prevents us from responding to this danger.

Israel, not bounded by an outmoded dogma, is taking steps to develop missile defense, and we're assisting in those efforts. We have joined the Israeli government in the Arrow Ballistic Missile Defense Initiative to protect your citizens from this very real threat. The Arrow program is a tribute to the ingenuity and determination of the people of Israel to forge an effective defense for your homeland. The United States must aggressively develop both theater and global missile defenses to complement and reinforce the protection Arrow will provide here in Israel.

Containment and defense provide interim security, but they cannot by themselves guarantee success. As long as individual dictators or regimes based on hatred work to develop terror weapons, all democratic societies will be threatened with catastrophe. A single nuclear, chemical or biological device in one of our great cities would create a tragedy of unthinkable proportions.

Our third strategy must be to pre-empt catastrophe by insisting that dictatorships be replaced with democracies. Clearly, the free world has the capacity to liberate the people of Iraq. Clearly, the free world has the resources to encourage the people of Iran to complete the process of change which hopefully began with the election of President Khatemi.

We need the will, the courage and the determination to work together to replace dictatorships seeking weapons of terror with democracies seeking friendship and economic prosperity.

This vision of democratic success and the failure of dictatorships will require the same

level of courage and commitment that in World War II defeated Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and imperial Japan. It will require the unrelenting persistence that for 45 years methodically contained; defended against; and in concert with the Russian and other captive peoples, ultimately replaced a communist dictatorship with fledgling democracies. Those democracies, while still struggling, have advanced freedom dramatically from the police state they replaced.

Free peoples who've faced down and defeated these dangers should see today's dangerous but fragile dictatorships for what they are: Our opportunities to expand freedom.

Sustaining security and establishing freedom will lead not only to peace, but also to economic prosperity. If we achieve peace through security in this region, the economies will flourish. They will flourish, first, because open borders and free trade produce wealth. No one should know this better than the Palestinians. When acts of terror force Israel to seal its border, it is the Palestinians who suffer most. They lose access to the strong Israeli economy, and 100,000 Palestinians are cut off from their jobs. When regional tensions choke off commerce, it is Israel's neighbors who suffer most. Open borders and free trade allow others to share in Israel's economic growth.

In addition, the region's economies will flourish as broad cooperation solves the most pressing problems in the next 50 years. Nowhere is that cooperation more vital than in dealing with the shortage in the region's most precious resource, water. Water has always been a central security concern in this land. Hezekiah enhanced Jerusalem's security dramatically when he protected the Gihon spring, his water source, by extending the walls of the city. Today, water is an equally critical security concern with the future of aquifers like the Yarkon as a principal issue in the peace process.

Right now, the United States gives incremental assistance to manage the problem. It has provided hundreds of millions of dollars to the Palestinians, primarily to tap new sources of water and manage the existing ones. In addition, it has assisted other countries in the region by providing them with Israeli expertise on things like drip irrigation and water recycling. Each of these efforts does assist countries that have a large and growing water deficit. They ultimately have a marginal impact, however. Our challenge for the next 50 years is to find the strategic solution to the shortage of water in the region. We must do more than manage an ever-scarcer resource. We must support the scientific and engineering advances that will erase the shortage of water forever.

Israel, the country that caused the desert to bloom, must lead this effort. From the cisterns of Massada to the drip irrigation of today, Israel has learned how to preserve a scarce resource. Today, it is the world's leader on those questions. In the future, Israel should become the world leader on expanding the supply of water. It has both the regional need and the human capital to lower the cost of desalination and end the shortage of water for the region. The United States has already invested in sharing Israeli expertise with the region, learning to manage a scarce resource. For the future, leadership demands that we do more than simply manage the current options. We, the United States, must invest with Israel to overwhelm the shortage of water with research that will provide fresh water from an abundant source—the oceans that cover most of our planet.

Our joint efforts for the future are built on the close relationship between our two countries. This relationship has been fostered in

a sustained way by the United States Congress. The strong personal bond that members of Congress feel toward Israel has led to consistent support for the state, reaching back to congressional resolutions as early as 1922 that supported a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Congress approved its first package of aid to Israel—\$65 million—in 1951. Congress pressed to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge. It provided emergency military assistance during the Gulf War. Congress approved \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees in order to absorb the flood of Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. It is Congress that enacted legislation in 1955 that requires our government to move its embassy to Jerusalem, finally recognizing the fact that Jerusalem has been Israel's capital for the last 50 years.

As speaker of the United States House, I want to initiate a far more direct relationship between the Knesset and the Congress. Today, Speaker Tichon and I are inaugurating a new U.S.-Israel interparliamentary initiative on strategic cooperation to be pursued by members from the U.S. Congress and Knesset. This effort was conceived by Chairman Uzi Landau of the Knesset's Foreign and Defense Affairs Committee, and Senator Jon Kyl of the U.S. Congress. The initiative will focus on security issues, particularly the crucial question of missile defense. It offers an excellent starting point for broadening and deepening the interaction between the Congress and the Knesset.

The relationship we are establishing between Congress and the Knesset will not be unique. As democracy spreads across the region, as it inevitably will, we should work together to broaden the interaction with other democratic parliaments.

As we celebrate Israel's 50th anniversary, we honor those, both American and Israeli, whose commitment to security and freedom ensured Israel's survival. Today we must draw inspiration for their example.

And let me just close by sharing with you—we've had a wonderful several days. We just had a meeting with your Foreign and Defense Committee that was very direct and very candid on both sides—not quite up to the Knesset standard of bluntness, but we're trying to learn.

I just want to share with you for one brief moment the magic that you represent. One hundred years ago, this was Ottoman, Turkish land; Russia was czarist; Germany was imperial; China had not yet had the revolution that ended the Confucian domination and the Manchu was still there; Japan was Imperial in every sense; and democracy was a strange idea in only a few countries. One hundred years later, we're gaining. It's painful. It costs lives. We make big mistakes. If you go to the Yad Vashem, you're reminded with heart-rending clarity of the cost of being wrong.

And yet, in America, in Israel, in Europe, in more and more of Asia, in Russia, day by day, this thing that we jointly represent—elect people to speak for you, put them in one room and make them fight it out—this thing is slowly spreading across the planet.

I am convinced from our trip here that Israeli democracy has never been more vibrant. It's never had a greater range of potential leaders pushing, shoving, arguing. It's never wrestled more passionately with the future of Israel and its relation with its neighbors.

And as an American, I can tell you how much we gained from these days; how stronger we will going home; how much more grateful that you here in the city of David continue to stand for freedom; and how much we want to reach out to work with each and every one of you to make sure that 50 years

and 3,000 years from now freedom exists in this land.

Thank you for allowing us to visit.

STATEMENT OF HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER RICHARD A. GEPHARDT AT THE GALA DINNER AT THE ISRAELI KNESSET HONORING 50 YEARS OF CONGRESSIONAL-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP, MAY 25, 1998

I am honored to join you this evening in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel.

The twentieth century has been marked by the worst cruelty and barbarity the Jewish people have suffered in this long history. Born after the Holocaust, this nation was envisioned by Claim Weizmann as "a resting-place in this terrible world." But it has become far more than that—serving as a beacon of justice, freedom, and hope for Jews of all nationalities.

Your country's democracy and its vibrant economic, cultural, and intellectual life have survived and prospered through nearly half a century of life under a state of war. Served as a source of pride for world Jewry, especially in America, and as a model for many nations.

Despite facing great adversity and hostility, you have been steadfast in your commitment to democracy. In fact, I am proud to stand here in the citadel of democracy in the Middle East.

In some ways, this is the greatest deliberative body in the world—few other assemblies have had the courage to carry on free and open democratic debate while facing so many external threats.

You have had the courage to disagree amongst yourselves. And you have always been united in trying to achieve peace and security in the region. Your dedication to the pursuit of peace in the face of constant threats of war and terrorism—across ideology and across the decades—from David Ben Curion and Chaim Weizmann to Menachem Begin, through Yitzhak Rabin to Binyamin Netanyahu—has garnered admiration and respect from millions around the world.

The American people's affinity and respect for the people of Israel is based on the pioneering spirit which both our people share. This has formed the core of the special bond between our two countries. And this is why the U.S.-Israel relationship is one of the strongest bilateral relationships in the world.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is also a tribute to the American Jewish community, many of whom have worked tirelessly over the years to keep our nation's leaders focused on the importance of this relationship, and some of whom are here tonight.

In fact, the American-Israeli relationship began in part as a result of the efforts of one American Jew who had a very influential friend in the White House.

In his memoirs, Harry Truman described an important moment in the development of his conviction about the creation of the state of Israel. His long-time friend Eddie Jacobsen urged Truman to meet with Dr. Weizmann.

Truman had been putting off the meeting, but at Jacobsen's urging, he relented. According to Truman:

"Dr. Weizmann came on March 18, and we talked for almost three quarters of an hour. He talked about the possibilities of development in Palestine, about the scientific work that he and his assistants had done that would someday be translated into industrial activity in the Jewish state that he envisaged.

"He spoke of the need for land if the future immigrants were to be cared for, and he impressed on me the importance of the Negev area in the south to any future Jewish state.

"Dr. Weizmann was a man of remarkable achievements and personality. His life had been dedicated to two ideals, that of science and that of the Zionist movement . . . He had known many disappointments and had grown patient and wise in them."

At this same time, the U.S. State Department attempted to have President Truman keep the territory under United Nations trusteeship rather than recognize a new Jewish state. George Marshall threatened to quit the Cabinet if Truman were to do this. George Kennan, one of America's most respected foreign policy experts, wrote to Truman:

"Ultimately the U.S. might have to support the Jewish authorities by the use of naval units and military forces . . . It is improbable that the Jewish state could survive over any considerable period of time in the face of the combined assistance which would be forthcoming for the Arabs in Palestine from the Arab States, and in lesser measure from their Moslem neighbors."

I would also note that Truman's approval rating at the time was 36 percent, and an election was looming that November. But despite all this, eleven minutes after Israeli leaders declared the existence of their new state, President Truman took a momentous step in recognizing Israel's security.

So from the beginning, it was in part through the efforts of Jewish-Americans that the relationship was formed and continually strengthened. Every person here tonight should be proud of their work to build on this partnership which has benefitted both the United States and Israel. And your efforts must continue so our children can stand here fifty years from tonight and celebrate once again.

President Truman wrote a letter to Dr. Weizmann six months after the founding of the Israeli state, and its words ring as true today as in 1948. The letter read:

"I want to tell you how happy and impressed I have been at the remarkable progress made by the new State of Israel. What you have received at the hands of the world has been far less than was your due. But you have more than made the most of what you have received, and I admire you for it."

As a fellow Missourian, I can do no better on this occasion than to simply restate to you and the people of Israel Harry Truman's words: "You have more than made the most of what you have received, and I admire you for it." But with a half-century of hindsight that President Truman did not have, I am confident that the best is yet to come for the State of Israel.

RECOGNIZING BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to send congratulations and best wishes to the citizens of the Bethlehem Township as they commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of their community. It is important that we recognize the magnitude of this anniversary and the events that have marked the history of this great township.

This is truly a day in which the citizens of Bethlehem can both rejoice and reflect upon. The township has endured many difficult times in its 200 years and has persevered through