

United States. As President Bush leads our Nation in this new war on global terrorism, we must stand by Israel in its condemnation of the shameful attack executed on its people during Passover of this year. We must stay committed to stomping out terrorism all over the world while working toward peace between Israel and its neighbors.

I admire Israel as the lone democracy in a troubled area of the world. Since 1993 Israel and the Palestinians have been engaged in intensive negotiations over the future of the West Bank and Gaza. The United States has been a consistent supporter of Israel, and I firmly support the Bush Administration's efforts to promote peace in the region and encourage countries throughout the region to condemn and prevent terrorism. By standing behind Israel now, we can prevent future terrorism and aggressively seek to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

A few years ago in my home of San Diego, an Islamic mosque was attacked for practicing its Muslim beliefs. This action and those against Israel fail to honor the American belief in equality. We are a Nation of many cultures, many religions, many ideologies. We are Asian and Arab, European and American, a truly proud multi-cultural society. We must celebrate the diversity of this world and condemn those radical extremists who seek to promote their own beliefs through violence.

Today we stand in solidarity with all of our allies, European and Arab, Judeo-Christian and Muslim, and all those who are committed to the preservation of freedom and liberty.

COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION OF THE COVENANT HALL SHARED BETWEEN BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the dedication of Covenant Hall, in Bethesda, Maryland. This grand building is shared between the interfaith congregations of Bradley Hills Presbyterian

Church (BHPC) and the Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC).

Today, Covenant Hall symbolizes the thirty-five year friendship between BHPC and BJC that was once a mere "rental agreement" for shared space. The bonds between the congregations emphasize a partnership in dialogue, education, outreach and worship. This unique relationship is the longest in the Nation between Christians and Jews and is an example to the community and country that different faiths can work together to achieve a common goal.

We celebrate the completion of Covenant Hall's five year renovation and construction project called "Celebrate the Light." For five years, BHPC and BJC demonstrated tremendous collaboration and teamwork. Their sacrifices are the foundations of the unprecedented faith and trust that the two congregations enjoy today. Covenant Hall is testament to the relationship and will facilitate expanded opportunities for mutual cooperation and joint services in the future.

The building is consecrated "sacred space" shared by two "spiritual siblings," and is uniquely designed to provide the full expression of each faith tradition. Covenant Hall will enhance the witness of both congregations to the surrounding community. Furthermore, the building and covenant between BHPC and BJC will serve as a constant reminder to the community that our divided world can enjoy and respect the beliefs of others.

The continued success of this partnership between BHPC and BJC and the completion of Covenant Hall is due to the hard work of the congregation and staff. Reverend Susan Andrews of BHPC and Spiritual Leader, Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer of BJC are fortunate to lead these congregations into the 21st century, with the construction of Covenant Hall. Our community is richer for the daily contributions Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and Bethesda Jewish Congregation make to everyone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 3, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 124, on ordering the

previous question on H. Res. 404. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 125, on agreeing to H. Res. 404. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 126, H.R. 392, Expressing Solidarity with Israel in its Fight Against Terrorism. Had I been present, I would have enthusiastically voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, I am now, and I have always been a strong supporter of Israel and her right to self-defense. This resolution is an important and necessary step, and one that I am glad to support.

I am glad that the House took up this resolution today and urged its support. Hopefully, the Senate will pass a similar resolution.

I believe that Israel's struggle against terrorism very closely resembles the war Americans have been engaged in over the past eight months. As horribly shocking as the events of September 11th and the deaths of thousands of innocent people were, imagine facing this type of terror threat on a daily basis. My friends, sadly that is what the Israeli citizens face every single day.

Every day in Israel, parents wake up and are afraid that their children might not make it home if they go out. Over the past few months, we have seen horrible instances of terrorism committed against the Israeli people. Homicide bombers have blown themselves up in Israeli pizza restaurants, night clubs, and on street corners. Dozens of Israelis were slaughtered while celebrating one of their most sacred holidays, the Passover Seder. And this past weekend, the West Bank settlement of Adora was attacked. Terrorists, disguised as Israeli soldiers, shot four Israelis, including a 5-year-old girl, to death in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I would love to see a peaceful resolution to the violent conflict in the Middle East. However, I believe that the daily terrorism threats Israelis face deserve full American support. There are very few differences between their war against terrorism and ours. Therefore, I enthusiastically support this resolution and encourage all of my freedom-loving colleagues to do the same.