

must stand by Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, in its fight against the terrorist organizations that seek to destroy the peace. We must maintain our commitment to Israel's security and the safety of its citizens.

Peace must come with security, not in spite of it. Israel has always made a sincere commitment to peace in the region. Many times its commitment to peace has come at the expense of innocent life. Before the process can move forward, we must compel the Palestinian authority to take immediate and effective steps to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Only then can we come to a peaceful solution of this conflict in which Israel, the Jewish State, can live side by side with a democratic Palestinian State in peace and security.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR PAUL
BAUMUNK

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the mayor of Lindenhurst, Illinois, Paul Baumunk, whose outstanding leadership and commitment to community service has significantly benefited the people of Lindenhurst.

A longtime resident of Lindenhurst, Mayor Paul Baumunk served as a teacher in Lake County for 31 years, both with the Lake Forest High School and the College of Lake County Vocational Center. He also served as a member of the Lindenhurst Plan Commission and the Lindenhurst Lakes Commission. In addition, Paul somehow found the time to participate in the Chamber of Commerce, the Lindenhurst Men's Club, the Lyons Club and in VFW Post #4894.

Although he has always been a devoted public servant, Paul has always held his family as a top priority. He and Joy, his wife of 32 years, originally settled in the community of Lindenhurst in 1977 to raise their son Philip and daughter Amy. Paul's retirement will allow him to spend more time with his family, something he will greatly cherish.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor Paul Baumunk on his retirement after 12 years of diligent service to the Village of Lindenhurst, Illinois. Paul has been a valuable member of the community for which he cares so deeply, and his service will be greatly missed. I wish him the best of luck in future endeavors, and I know he will enjoy his retirement for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2003, had I been present for Rollcall Vote No.'s 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, and 317, I would have voted the following way: Rollcall Vote No. 312, S. 858—"Yea;" Rollcall Vote No. 313, H.R. 2474—"Yea;" Roll-

call Vote No. 314, H.J. Res. 49—"Yea;" Rollcall Vote No. 315, H. Con. Res. 49—"Yea;" Rollcall Vote No. 316, H. Res. 199—"Yea;" Rollcall Vote No. 317, H. Res. 294—"Yea."

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the Supreme Court's decision to uphold affirmative action. The Court's ruling this week was a tremendous victory for all those who believe that diversity is one of our nation's greatest strengths.

The historical significance of this important ruling cannot be underestimated. For millions of minority students—Latino, African-American, Native American—it means the opportunity at a better education, higher wages, and a promising future.

The Court's ruling is especially important to Latinos, our nation's fastest growing and now largest minority group. Fewer than 10 percent of college-age Latinos pursue higher education. Only 16 percent of Latinos between the ages of 25–29 have bachelor's degrees. Clearly, many challenges remain to increase Latino enrollment at colleges and universities across the country. Affirmative action is key to breaking down the barriers to higher education for Latinos.

Affirmative action is not only beneficial to minority students, but also to non-minority students. Greater diversity on our college campuses ultimately produces students who are better equipped to thrive in an economy and society that is increasingly multicultural. As Justice O'Connor noted in the Court's decision, the future of our nation relies on leaders who are comfortable with "diverse people, cultures, ideas and viewpoints." O'Connor was most likely influenced in her opinion by an unlikely coalition of business, military, civil rights, and education groups that urged the Court to uphold affirmative action because it produces leaders who are prepared for today's increasingly global economy.

The country's highest court has ruled that race may be a factor in college admissions because the nation has a compelling need for racial and ethnic diversity on our college campuses. The ruling calls into question race-neutral affirmative action plans used in several states, including my own state of California where there has been a 39 percent increase in the rejection of Latino freshman applicants to California public universities since the state's race-neutral plan was implemented. Given the Supreme Court's decision, I hope California will review and revise its affirmative action policies so that public universities in my state truly reflect the state's very diverse population. The Court has spoken about the importance of diversity. Now should California.

Throughout the United States, there are millions of Latinos and Latinas who want to succeed. They want equal educational and economic opportunities. The Court's ruling provides great hope for these young people. Again, I applaud the Court for this landmark decision.

CONDEMNING TERRORISM INFLICTED ON ISRAEL SINCE AQABA SUMMIT AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE ISRAELI PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over the recent terrorism conducted by Palestinian extremists against the citizens of the state of Israel. This comes just weeks after a groundbreaking summit where both Palestinians and Israelis came together and agreed to the Road Map to Peace. It is most unfortunate that one small sect of extremists shake the relationship between the two.

My colleagues and I mourn the loss of 22 innocent Israeli citizens who have fallen victim to this terror since the summit. In addition, we mourn the loss of the dozens of civilian Palestinians who have also died as a result of terrorism. These lives, I believe, should also be mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote in favor of this measure today, but I think we missed a great opportunity to send a clear message that this Congress is fully committed, along with the President, in support of the Roadmap for Peace. The Roadmap recognizes the importance of including both Israelis and Palestinians in establishing much desired peace in the region. While the Roadmap may have its flaws, I believe it is the only way to get both parties back on the track to peace.

The people of the United States stand firm in our commitment to the security and health of a democratic Israel. We must continue to do all we can to promote negotiations to advance the peace process in the Middle East. Together we can root out the terrorism that plagues the region and move forward with one goal in mind, peace.

TRIBUTE TO FRAN AND MARIE
BONNER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two very exceptional people I am proud to call my constituents as they reach a milestone that has become more and more rare in today's world. Fran and Marie Bonner recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Even more uncommon is their steadfast dedication to public service, giving back to their community and fellow citizens. I am honored to highlight the achievements of two people who have contributed so much to North-eastern Pennsylvania.

Francis Peter Bonner and Marie Ann Clatch were engaged on Christmas day in 1961. They met in 1959 at The Madison Restaurant in Hazleton when Fran was registering Marie to vote. His first words to her were "Are you registered to vote?" When she said no he promptly registered her as a Democrat, and she has been both his girl and a Democrat ever since.