

the strongest terms. But Hamas, given time to change and adjust, may have the strength and credibility to break the cycle of hatred and violence on behalf of those it now represents, the Palestinian people. After all, Sharon changed. And who but Sharon could have accomplished the withdrawal from Gaza?

I understand a number of my colleagues voted against H.R. 4681 for humanitarian reasons. These are certainly compelling, but I agree with the vast majority of my colleagues that such issues must take a back seat to the fundamental, long term security issues presented by the Hamas electoral victory. My "no" vote is quite narrowly based. I think this situation calls for time and diplomacy. H.R. 4681 offers neither and evidences, yet again, why Congress should not be conducting our foreign policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, last week I could not be present for votes on May 17–19 due to my son's graduation from a California law school.

If I had been present on May 17, I would have voted "no" on amendments to the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, H.R. 4200 (rollcall votes 147, 148, 149, and 150). As a cosponsor of H.R. 4200, I would have voted "yes" on final passage of the bill (rollcall vote 151).

I would have voted "no" on the Marshall Rule to consider the budget (rollcall vote 152), "no" on the previous question (rollcall vote 153), and "no" on the rule to consider the Republican budget (rollcall vote 154). I would have voted "no" on the Watt Substitute (rollcall vote 155).

On May 18, I would have voted "no" on the Hensarling Substitute (rollcall vote 156).

I would have voted "yes" on the Spratt Democratic Substitute, which would have accumulated smaller deficits and less debt than the Republican budget, provided \$6.5 billion more for Homeland Security and \$8.6 billion more for veterans' health care over the next five years. In addition the substitute, would have provided \$150 billion for middle class tax relief such as child tax credit, marriage penalty, and extension of 10% tax bracket (rollcall vote 157).

I would have voted "no" on final passage of the irresponsible Republican budget, which passed 218–210 (rollcall vote 158).

I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 740, calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Pat Finucane (rollcall vote 159).

I would have voted against the previous question and rule to consider the Interior Appropriations bill (rollcall votes 160 and 161).

I would have voted for H. Res. 795, which condemns the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt (rollcall vote 162).

I would have voted for the Weiner Amendment to reopen the Statue of Liberty to the public, which passed 266–152 (rollcall vote 163). I would have voted "no" on the Poe

Amendment to open the outer continental shelf to oil and natural gas drilling (rollcall vote 164). I would have voted for the Pallone Amendment to prohibit the EPA from finalizing changes to the Toxins Release Inventory, which collects and reports information on toxic substances (rollcall vote 165). I would have voted "no" on the Beauprez Amendment (rollcall vote 166). I would have voted "yes" on the Hinchey Amendment, which would require that any new leases for offshore oil and gas drilling include royalty payments if the price of oil or gas is over a certain threshold (rollcall vote 167).

I would have voted against the Chabot Amendment, which would prohibit funds for new logging roads in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska (rollcall vote 168).

I would have voted for the Oberstar Amendment to prohibit the EPA from enforcing guidelines set 3 years ago that significantly limit the applicability of the Clean Water Act to streams, ponds, and wetlands (rollcall vote 169).

I would have voted "yes" on the Putnam/Capps amendment to reinstate the bipartisan moratorium on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (rollcall vote 170).

I would have voted "no" on the Hefley Amendment, which would provide a one percent across-the-board cut to all programs funded in the Interior Appropriations bill (rollcall vote 171).

I would have voted for final passage of the Interior Appropriations bill given the significant improvements made to the bill by the passage of the Hinchey, Oberstar, and Putnam/Capps amendments (rollcall vote 172).

On May 19, I would have voted "no" on the Previous Question and passage of the rule for consideration of the Military Construction and Quality of Life Appropriations bill (rollcall votes 173 and 174). I would have voted "no" on the Blumenauer Amendment which would have cut \$440 million from the BRAC Base Closure account (rollcall vote 175).

I would have voted for final passage of the Military Construction and Quality of Life Appropriations bill (rollcall vote 176).

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to rise in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month, which was inaugurated this year to be celebrated annually during the month of May.

Jewish American Heritage Month is a special opportunity to celebrate Judaism not only as a religion, but a culture that is rich in history, tradition, and flavor. The American Jewish Community has made significant contributions to our society and has helped weave the fabric of American life.

In 1833, it was a Jewish immigrant, Emma Lazarus, who composed the poem "The New Colossus" as part of a fundraising campaign to erect the Statue of Liberty. The monument was later inscribed with her words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." These words have

come to symbolize America's role as a haven for all who seek opportunities and freedom from persecution, including hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants who arrived at our shores.

My own grandparents came in the early 1900s from what is now Moldova after escaping hardship and pogroms. They settled in a working-class Jewish neighborhood in Los Angeles much like other communities that sprang up in major cities around the country. They lived amid a tight-knit community of kosher butchers, synagogues, and Jewish businesses, where Yiddish was often heard on the streets.

Although sometimes criticized for their insularity, these ethnic neighborhoods epitomized the values of charity and community service, building a safety net long before Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security came into existence. In this regard, Jewish Los Angeles has an impressive history. The Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS), established in 1854, was one of the first umbrella organizations of its kind to support comprehensive support services like a food pantry, care for the elderly, and assistance for the unemployed.

The community in Los Angeles also earned distinction for its openness and diversity. A special milestone being celebrated in my district this year is the 100th anniversary of Sinai Temple, which is the oldest Conservative congregation west of the Mississippi. L.A. is now home to the University of Judaism, Hebrew Union College, and an array of synagogues and schools from all streams of Jewish religious practice.

Of course, Jewish Los Angeles is perhaps best recognized for the many Jewish entrepreneurs and entertainers who have taken on prominent roles as producers, actors, recording artists and media personalities. Jewish Americans also made their mark in education, science, economics, literature and many other arenas. More than a third of U.S. Nobel Prize winners in science or economics have been Jewish. There have been 18 Jewish Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. While Jews in the United States have also suffered periods of discrimination and anti-Semitism, the community has persevered as a champion of civil rights, tolerance and religious freedom. It is often said that Jews living in America are freer, safer, and more prosperous than at any time or place in Jewish history.

One reason it is particularly fitting that this month has been chosen to honor Jewish American Heritage Month is that May 5th is the anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. The United States was the first major country to officially recognize the fledgling Jewish State. Our relationship has been cemented through robust economic ties and strong military cooperation, and an enduring partnership based on democratic values.

Although Jews account for barely two percent of the population, there are today more Jews living in the United States than any other country outside of Israel. I welcome the designation of Jewish American Heritage Month and the opportunity for all Americans to learn about the contributions made by one of our nation's most vocal and vibrant minorities.