

Service Ships. He was instrumental in the successful operations of the PEO, primarily responsible for the in-service support for all surface ships, including destroyer and cruiser modernization programs, the ships inactivation program and the FMS Ship Transfer Program. Under his leadership, the In-Service Ship Team was the horsepower behind the SHIPMAIN Modernization Initiative, CFT 4 which prioritized alterations across classes of ships, removed non-valve alterations with a savings to the navy of over \$500M, and instituted a drum beat for alteration accomplishment. He supported SHIPMAIN CFT's 1, 2 and 3, and the development of the Surface Warfare Enterprise. He achieved success in the implementation of a Multi-Ship Multi-Option contract approach for all surface ships maintenance and modernization. MSMO contracts have stabilized the repair industrial base and reduced costs to the fleet OM&N accounts. The achieved successes in the re-activation of the *ex-Kidd* Class destroyers for the Taiwanese Ship Transfer program were extremely impressive; four ships were re-activated for the Taiwanese Navy several months early and tens of millions under budget. Planning for follow-on ship transfer work for the *MHC's*, *ex-Trenton*, and *ex-Coronado* are already in place. The ship Inactivation Programs still continues to make great strides in reducing the size of the inactive fleet through the development of innovative processes and continuous improvements of existing methods.

Mr. Weyman's visionary approach to challenges allows for the transformation from a "business as usual" mentality into actions that permit innovative improvements in the way the Government and its private industry partners achieve best value products and services. It is, therefore, a pleasure to recognize Mr. Alan S. Weyman for his many contributions in a life devoted to our Nation's security as he leaves the Department of the Navy. I know my colleagues join me in wishing him and his wife Barbara much happiness and fair winds and following seas as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 60th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel and to reaffirm the steadfast relationship between our two strong democratic allies.

May 14, 2008, marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel. With little resources and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Israel has become a thriving and prosperous democracy, and has made significant worldwide contributions in technology, medicine, agriculture, and environmental innovation. Additionally, eight Israelis have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

When we speak about Israel, too often we focus on Israel's troubles and don't focus enough attention on her beauty and her spirit.

But what I want to focus on today is her resolve.

Since its independence in 1948, Israel has continually overcome every conceivable roadblock placed in her way. She has beaten back hostile neighbors during war and now she endures terrible economic hardship from terrorist cowards who perpetrate hideous violence against innocent victims.

As a critical partner in our fight against terror and as the only democracy in the region, Israel's strength and security is paramount. Therefore, I encourage this House to continue to pass bipartisan bills in support of Israel and her ability to protect herself from hostile neighbors.

The blossoming of a nation that grew from desert sand into a thriving example of democracy, economic progress, and cultural diversity is a magnificent achievement for this strong and vibrant country.

I want to congratulate Israel on all she has achieved in just 60 years, and I look forward to the future of this extraordinary Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. KI'ARA RUFUS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Ki'Ara Rufus, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3-5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the local Youth of the Year award, Ki'Ara moved onto the state level competition, where she refined her essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Ki'Ara was an extremely qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. She has been an active member of the Great Milford Club since she was 6. Throughout her time with the Boys & Girls Club, Ki'Ara has been a member of the Torch Club and the Youth Respond program. She also served as treasurer for the African American Heritage Club at Milford High School.

Once again, I would like to commend Ki'Ara Rufus for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

SALUTING THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA RED CROSS AND ITS VOLUNTEERS

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you to salute the southeastern Pennsylvania Red Cross and its outstanding volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

April 27 through May 3 is National Volunteer Week. Last year in southeastern Pennsylvania, 7,664 Red Cross volunteers helped victims of disaster, taught their neighbors how to save a life, mentored school kids on the meaning of community, and connected military families separated by war and thousands of miles.

The Red Cross in southeastern Pennsylvania is the place where:

Someone you do not recognize puts your family to bed the night you have been burned out of your home—72,000 fires in America last year, 905 of them in southeastern Pennsylvania. Red Cross volunteers answered the call every night when 5,292 of our neighbors—over 40% of them children—suddenly found themselves without a place to live.

A total stranger will give you their blood—four million donors across America, 175,000 of them in southeastern Pennsylvania. Over 1,600 local Red Cross volunteers run over 240 blood drives every month.

Someone you never knew will help save your child from drowning—11 million Americans were trained last year in life saving techniques, 111,739 in southeastern Pennsylvania in over 8,000 classes.

You call to speak to a friendly voice when you have an emergency that involves a serviceman or woman overseas. 3,253 times, the Red Cross received those calls on its 24-7 hotline last year.

400 kids from 18 Philadelphia public high schools gather to learn how to save a life, to help out at the "Kids Carnival" on Martin Luther King Day, and to organize blood drives, food drives or toy drives in their schools and their communities.

And Red Cross volunteers are people like:

Martin Strom: During the day he is a SEPTA bus driver, but at night "Big Marty" turns up at the burning homes of people he has never met—starting them on the road to recovery from what for many is the worst night of their lives.

Wilma Yeakel: Wilma has worked over 2,000 blood drives in 25 years, and she will tell you that volunteers are paid in six figures—s-m-i-l-e-s.

Tom Warner: this septuagenarian still turns up at his neighborhood "Y" in Germantown to teach lifeguard classes—as he has every year for 57 years—and he will tell you that his lungs are in better shape than many of his students.

Carol Barnett: longtime Eagles fan Carol has been helping military families for the last 17 years, working at least two ten-hour shifts like clockwork, every single week. And Carol volunteers on holidays so that others can take a break.

Cornelius Moody: Franklin Learning Center junior Cornelius said it best in his essay on the honor of wearing his Red Cross Shirt: