

"Our Red Cross Club is not just another school program, it's a mindset. A mindset to help anyone in need in any way you can, not because you know them, not for privileges, not for awards, but because in your heart you know you can help this person, you should help this person, so you will help this person."

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "It is part of the American character to consider nothing as desperate." Surely what Jefferson envisioned for his America were people like Janice Lufkin and Andrew Brownstein in Montgomery County; Dan Hagen and Edna Hendricks in Delaware County; and Ed Bittner and Debbie Dorito in Chester County—who have together put in over one century of service to people they will probably never see again, but who desperately needed their help, their shoulder, their kind words in their time of greatest need. These volunteers have served in every corner of this region, and in places like Biloxi, Pascagoala and New Orleans, at wildfires in California, tornadoes in the Midwest, bridge collapses in Minnesota, and hurricanes in Florida.

Jefferson was right—nothing is desperate, when you live in a country with people like them and the other 7,664 volunteers here at the southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PIPE AND TUBE IMPORTS

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Annual Meeting of the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports, known to many as the "voice of the industry" in Washington, DC.

The Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports has strong roots in western Pennsylvania. In fact, a number of local steel pipe and tube industry leaders—including Mr. James Feeney, formerly of Wheatland Tube Co.; Mr. Joseph Nowak, formerly of Cyclops Corporation; and individuals from Allied Tube and Conduit—created the vision of the Committee. Since its beginning, the Committee has worked closely with leaders in Congress to develop sound and fair trade policies that ensure U.S. trade laws are strengthened and maintained.

Throughout its 25-year history, the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports has had many notable achievements, including the filing of over 100 antidumping and countervailing duty cases challenging unfairly traded imports; inclusion of steel pipe and tube in the President's Steel Voluntary Restraint Agreement program; and work on the enactment of trade legislation. It is obvious that this organization has made a significant and lasting impact on our nation's trade policies and through its advocacy has ensured a future for this important segment of the steel industry and its workers across the country.

I am honored to have this opportunity to thank the Committee's founding members, past chairmen, and staff for all of the amazing work they have accomplished on behalf of the United States steel pipe, tube and fittings industry and wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING JENNIFER AND JAMES GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR MARRIAGE

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents who were married Saturday, March 8, 2008. Jennifer Lewis Fowlkes and James Sean Griffin celebrated their commitment to each other at a wedding ceremony held at the Griffin home in Land O'Lakes, Florida. A couple firmly dedicated to the Pasco County region, Jennifer works for Verizon, and Jeff is an entrepreneur.

As George Eliot once said, "What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?" Having known the Griffin family for many years, I know Jennifer and James' will have a lifetime of wedded joy ahead of them. I can only hope that their marriage is as long lasting and full of love as that of James' parents, Danielle and Jeff Griffin.

Madam Speaker, we should all be jealous of newlyweds like Jennifer and Jeff. Their lifelong journey began with the first step of a marriage ceremony, and they have yet to see the ups and downs and joys and sorrows that come with every union of man and woman. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them well as they begin their new life together.

OPERATION IRAQI HEALING

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the non-governmental organization Severus Worldwide and the work they are doing on behalf of the health and well-being of the Iraqi people through their project, "Operation Iraqi Healing."

Prior to the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraqi citizens suffered from a humanitarian crisis perpetrated by a totalitarian dictatorship focused on preserving power rather than providing for the citizenry. Following the liberation of Iraq, remnants of that broken system and the emergence of destabilizing violence created a scenario where the Iraqi people are in dire need of medical supplies and medical facilities to support a healthy nation.

While the American military and our coalition partners have worked hard to help build an infrastructure in the face of ongoing violence, our efforts have been impeded by an enemy that targets Iraqi infrastructure and an Iraqi medical community that has not been fully engaged. Thankfully, private organizations are stepping up and providing invaluable assistance.

Severus Worldwide's "Operation Iraqi Healing" brings together Iraqi physicians and med-

ical personnel along with civil affairs officers from both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps to provide the necessary funding and infrastructure to build, staff, and equip hospitals and clinics to serve the people of Iraq. This type of comprehensive strategy is needed, and I am grateful for Severus Worldwide's tremendous efforts on behalf of the Iraqi people.

The time to act is now. The success that can be achieved by strengthening the healthcare system of Iraq is two-fold. The people of Iraq will have the tools and resources to treat the sick and wounded. But, just as important, the stability that a strong and growing infrastructure can bring to this nation will be invaluable in helping the young democracy of Iraq flourish. The men and women of Severus Worldwide and the numerous other private and public organizations that have continued to contribute to a stable Iraq should be commended for their compassion.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the contribution of the State of Israel as it celebrates its 60th anniversary as a vibrant and open democratic society.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues have already gone into detail about the accomplishments of the State of Israel, and how Israel has gone through an astonishing evolution since 1948. I echo many of their remarks.

I had the great privilege to live and work in Israel in the mid-1960s and celebrated Israel's 22nd anniversary by taking part in a 3-day walk from the shores of Tel Aviv to the hills of Jerusalem. Now I marvel with every visit at the extraordinary changes that have taken place.

With every visit to Israel and each article I read about events on the ground, I am reminded of the enormous complexities and challenges Israel faces—internal as well as external. So we must ask ourselves, what will the future bring for Israel? How can Israel reconcile the great contradictions that its victories from the 1967 war delivered and address the occupation of Palestinian territories that now threatens Israel's very existence as a democratic state with a Jewish majority?

Israel has sought peace with its neighbors and made some progress toward peace with neighboring Arab states. Today, with Gaza controlled by HAMAS and the West Bank by the Palestinian Authority, Israel still lacks a real partner for peace. However, this does not mean efforts for peace should not continue. . . . and this does not mean that the United States should not play an active leadership role in the region.

We must continue our strong support for Israel's very right to exist while continuing to bring life to the peace process between Israel and its neighbors. Our assistance must be a sustained diplomatic effort, on the ground in both Israel and the territories, so we can maximize every effort for dialogue and concrete negotiations.