Ms. Booth also is an able advocate at the state and federal levels. By leading the Friends of Dyke Marsh, she has spearheaded efforts to protect wildlife and aquatic life at this remarkable marsh in Fairfax. Through her participation in the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, she has championed stronger environmental policy at the statewide level. Prior to her wide-ranging volunteerism in the community, Ms. Booth served as staff to Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California. This professional experience equipped her to be a highly effective community activist.

Advocates like Ms. Booth have initiated every significant environmental legislative achievement in the past, whether it is legislation to clean up toxic waste at sites such as Love Canal or protect local habitats in Dyke Marsh and Mason Neck. I am grateful for her service, which is more valuable than ever as federal, state, and local governments confront environmental challenges ranging from climate change to restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me in congratulating Glenda Booth on receiving the Liz Hartwell Conservation Award to recognize three decades of environmental activism.

WE MUST PREVENT ANOTHER HOLOCAUST

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, at ten o’clock this morning, the nation of Israel observed two minutes of silence in observance of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. For those two minutes, all activity in the country ceased to honor of the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis during the madness of the Final Solution. For Israelis, the Holocaust remains the crucible that produced their state and its impact is felt daily across Israeli society—from politics to the arts.

Here in the United States, the Holocaust is more remote. The GIs who helped to liberate the Nazi death camps more than six decades ago are fading into history and the graying black and white footage of the victims images that stunned the world in the 1940s—now seem distant to many Americans.

For Israelis, though, the Holocaust serves as an omnipresent reminder of the historical insecurity of the Jewish people for whom persecution and exile have characterized two millennia of wandering from their ancient homeland. Coupled with Israel’s mainly hostile and fundamentally unstable neighbors, the memory of Hitler’s attempt to exterminate European Jewry has served to make Israelis extraordinarily vigilant in the face of constant security threats.

Israeli security analysts have focused their concern in recent years on Iran, which they see as the most critical existential threat to the Jewish state.

Through its support for Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank, Tehran has taken up positions along Israel’s borders and its proxies have repaid their Iranian masters handsomely by provoking large-scale military actions by Israel in 2006 and December of last year. Through its relentless pursuit of the nuclear fuel cycle, Iran’s radical regime seeks to dominate the region and to erect a permanent threat to Israel’s security and the Israeli people.

Through its statements and the virulence of state-controlled media, Iranian leaders, particularly President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are clearly fixated on the demonization and destruction of Israel. Just yesterday, the Iranian president sparked a walkout at a United Nations rare earth conference in Geneva, when he launched into a rambling rant against Israel and Jews. The prospect of Ahmadinejad with nuclear weapons is one that keeps many Israelis up at night and should be keeping many of us awake as well.

Given the potential consequences, the United States must make the prevention of Iran developing the bomb a cornerstone of both its strategy for the Middle East and its nonproliferation agenda. To do otherwise would place Israel in Iran’s nuclear crosshairs. The last minute of signatures at the Nantanz facility race as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates could seek to match any Iranian nuclear weapons capability.

I support President Obama’s decision to reach out to Tehran and I believe that tough, concerted diplomacy can be effective in getting the Iranian government to reassess its nuclear policy. But to be effective, that diplomacy must include a wide range of both inducements and disincentives. And it must take into account the character and nature of the current Iranian regime. And, finally, those charged with executing the policy must be willing to consider other alternatives should diplomacy fail.

Tehran’s current declared enrichment activities at its Nantanz facility are subject to regular inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which should be able to spot diversion or any attempt to produce weapons grade material before it can be turned into a weapon. As long as the IAEA can maintain its surcease, with the character and nature of the current Iranian regime.

What concerns many senior officials in Israel, here in the United States and in Europe, is that Iran, which continues to withhold a lot of information about its nuclear program, may have a parallel, secret nuclear program that is beyond the reach of the IAEA and western intelligence monitoring. As David Albright, the President of the Institute for Science and International Security, told the Financial Times last week, aside from Nantanz “we don’t know anything about what they are doing, how many centrifuges they have made, or whether they are ready to go with a duplicate facility that would allow them to produce fissile material.”

The juxtaposition of renewed diplomatic overtures and the unease over the extent of what we do not know about Iran’s capabilities or its intentions, may strengthen our hand with the other permanent members of the UN Security Council who are working to produce a collective response to the Iranian nuclear challenge. If our international partners perceive a new American willingness to explore seriously the prospect for a negotiated resolution to the Iran problem, they may also be more receptive to cooperative measures that may become necessary if Iran is shown to be pursuing a nuclear weapons capability.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS

HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in October 1987 the first issue of the Inland Empire Hispanic News was published. To date, we celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of this initial publication. The paper has been widely accepted by both the Hispanic public and the Inland Empire as the premier publication in the diverse areas, with a circulation of over 4,500. All of us—Americans, Israelis, Europeans and Russians—would be well advised to remember the past, even as we work towards what we hope will be a safer tomorrow.

In the 48 years since the end of World War II, the world has changed dramatically. The newspaper was founded by Mr. Graciano Gomez, who saw an urgent need for a newspaper that would exemplify the positive Hispanic attributes, and further the education, understanding and non-profit organizations for its journalistic contributions to the Hispanic community and the Inland Empire.

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