

opportunity to visit the museum and hear from a holocaust survivor. I also offered remarks at this event to echo the life and death importance of tolerance and understanding.

The United States is a country of millions of people from countless distinct backgrounds. It is because of the values and freedoms inherent in our society, that so many diverse cultures are able to find success here. I am pleased to join my colleague in the House of Representatives tonight in honoring the many successes of Jewish Americans.

IN HONOR OF AND RECOGNITION
OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CROATIAN AMERICAN ASSO-
CIATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Croatian American Association, which was celebrated on Saturday, May 15th in Chicago, Illinois.

For twenty years, the Croatian American Association, a non-partisan organization, has sought to bring the interests and concerns of Croatian Americans to the attention of Congress and the Administration. The Croatian American community is vibrant and strong in Cleveland, Chicago and throughout our nation. Croatian Americans have made significant contributions to all levels of culture and society and have made our nation a better place.

The Croatian American Association is focused on rallying members of Congress to support the process of democratic development in Croatia, and providing education to the American people on the significance of supporting democracy in Croatia. For twenty years, members and leaders within the Association have created vital partnerships with Congressional and Senate leaders, with members of the press, and with leaders of numerous cultural and political organizations throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of all Americans of Croatian heritage, and the members of the Croatian American Association, as they celebrate 20 years of advancing democracy in Croatia. As United States citizens whose origins span the globe, we must work to preserve and foster bonds of friendship, support, and peace here at home and in the nations of our origin.

HONORING FAIRFIELD BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Fairfield Baptist Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past 125 years; and

Whereas, Pastor Micheal Benton and the members of the Fairfield Baptist Church family today continue to uplift and inspire those in our county; and

Whereas, the Fairfield Baptist Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our district; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past 125 years by preaching the gospel, singing the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Fairfield has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County and the world their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Fairfield Baptist Church family on their 125th Anniversary and for their leadership and service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 16, 2010, as Fairfield Baptist Church Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GLESS, 2010
FATHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an individual from my Congressional District who will be presented with the 2010 Father of the Year Award next week in Riverside, California.

The purpose of the Father of the Year Awards is to honor fathers who have remained a positive role model for their children while also making a positive difference in their community.

John Gless is one of those fathers. He has been married to his wife Janet for 52 years, and has four children and 11 grandchildren. As owner and founder of Gless Ranch, John has been an active member of the California farming community and avid supporter of numerous charitable organizations.

I am proud to call John a fellow community member and American. And today, I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating him on this well-deserved recognition.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON
OECD MEMBERSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our close ally and partner, Israel, for her accession to membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. I also want to thank the Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for introducing this Resolution, of which I am honored to be an original co-sponsor.

Israel first sought membership in OECD 10 years ago, and since then, Israel has been the most active nonmember country. Her aggressive pursuit of far-reaching economic reforms has led to her placement among the top business-friendly countries. Today, Israel is a world leader in providing access to credit markets, investor protections, and financial market sophistication. Her quality of life index also ranks among the top in life expectancy, judicial independence and legal rights.

The two pillars of the OECD are a commitment to democratic government and a free-market based economy. Its recognition of Israel's advanced economy, however, has been too long in coming and this delay has subjected Israel to too many politicized attacks from unfriendly nations and multilateral institutions.

Now, Israel's membership will strengthen the OECD's strategic economic importance in the world and benefit all members by providing access to Israel's advanced labor market and innovations in science and technology. Their membership also signifies another step forward in the cause to end religious intolerance and anti-Semitic economic and cultural policies.

Israel's commitment to our shared values of democracy, human rights, and freedom make her one the most important strategic allies of the United States. We will continue to support Israel in every way possible and work with her to defend herself against the aggressions of all enemies. I call on all responsible nations to do the same and congratulate OECD and Israel for this momentous partnership.

HONORING THE DECEASED MA-
RINE CORPORAL JEFFREY JOHN-
SON OF TOMBALL

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marine Corporal Jeffrey Johnson of Tomball, TX, part of the 3rd Battalion 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, who was killed on May 11, 2010, while on foot patrol by an improvised explosive device south of Marjah in the Garmsir District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 21 years old.

In 2007, after graduating from Waller High School, Corporal Johnson accepted the call to become one of the few and the proud as a Marine. In doing so, he joined a family legacy of service to America, with grandfathers having served in the Navy and Air Force and four of his uncles in the National Guard.

His family, friends, and fellow Marines recall Corporal Johnson as a smart, humorous, loving, and hard working person. His father, Jerry, said that his son loved being a Marine and believed strongly in America's fight for freedom and against terrorists overseas.

Corporal Johnson leaves behind a wife, Katy, his parents, grandparents, three siblings, and many other family members. He also leaves behind a very proud community. The people of Tomball and Magnolia, Texas, lined the streets of town to welcome this man home, and stand today behind his family and support them in their grief.