

important allies since its founding. This relationship remains strong and vibrant to this day.

While many things have changed in the past sixty-four years, the bonds of friendship between our two great nations has remained constant.

President of Israel Shimon Peres has called on all Jewish people across the world to participate in Independence Day celebrations being hosted at the Presidential residence in Jerusalem.

These celebrations will include honorary flyovers of Israeli combat planes and helicopters and a full military review by President Peres and Chief of Staff Gantz. President Peres will also be awarding 120 soldiers with the President's Outstanding Service Award.

Also, President Peres and Prime Minister Netanyahu, will partake in singing songs commemorating Israeli independence with the Israeli Defense Forces band and numerous patriotic singers.

I am always pleased to recognize and commemorate historic occasions such as this one.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, all Jewish people, and me, in recognizing Israel's sixty-fourth Independence Day.

HONORING THE NEW JERSEY
STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS
ON POLICE ON THEIR 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police on 100 years of leading the way in providing the highest level of professional and ethical police services. I join with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police in recognizing their centennial anniversary to commemorate the many years of their outstanding leadership. These servicemen and women are exceptional in both their professional field and community service to the public.

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police is one of the oldest, largest and most respected police executive associations in the country. Membership includes the sworn chief executives of local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the state of New Jersey. Since its founding in 1912, the Association has been a driving force for implementation of the latest techniques, technology and methodologies in New Jersey police agencies. In 1945, they began administering professional entry level and promotional examinations for non-civil service police departments. As the responsibilities of the organization continued to grow, the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police developed the Command and Leadership Academy in 1993 for law enforcement executives in New Jersey. Striving to uphold its mission of maintaining the highest standards for law enforcement, the Association provides command school, executive and professional development, administrative, management and leadership training for New Jersey police professionals. In that same vein, the Association offers at no cost full portfolios of model policies

and resources to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. It also established and administers New Jersey's law enforcement agency accreditation program. In addition to all these services, the association founded, coordinates and hosts the annual New Jersey memorial service for officers killed in the line of duty—the first of its kind in the United States. After a century of service to New Jersey, I join the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police in honoring this exceptional organization and its members who have dedicated themselves to delivering quality service to both the law enforcement community as well as the citizens of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and honor all of its members for their role in keeping this wonderful organization going for so many years. I know I join with all of my constituents in wishing the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police continued success as they proudly serve the communities of New Jersey.

NINETY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, *parev, pari yegak* (Hello, welcome.)

Thank you to the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Assembly, the Armenian Caucus, the Embassy of Armenia, and the Office of Nagorno Karabakh for organizing this very important event.

I would also like to give a special thanks to all of the Armenian Genocide survivors and their families who are here tonight.

I am very proud to represent the 7th district of Massachusetts because my district includes the community with the third highest percentage of Armenian-Americans in the Nation.

We have gathered today to remember and commemorate the Armenian Genocide, one of the darkest chapters of World War I, and the first of many genocides we saw in the 20th century.

Ninety-seven years ago, the Armenian Genocide was initiated when hundreds of Armenian political, religious, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and then deported and murdered. Unfortunately, these terrible atrocities that occurred in the capital of the Ottoman Empire only represented the beginning of the suffering inflicted on the Armenian people.

Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out the deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians from their homes, resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million innocent children, women and men.

This must never happen again.

In order to prevent future genocides, we must recognize those of the past. For many years the House has had before it a resolution which clearly affirms the United States record on the Armenian Genocide.

I have been a strong supporter and vocal cosponsor of this resolution in every Congress, and I remain so today.

Almost one-hundred years have passed since the Armenian Genocide, yet the suf-

fering will continue for Armenians and non-Armenians alike as long as the world allows denial to prevail.

Already, 43 states and 22 nations have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, and it is long overdue for the United States to do the same.

Unfortunately, the Republic of Armenia's challenges continue even after its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

In the face of ongoing blockades from Turkey and Azerbaijan, the United States must provide assistance to Armenia while working to reestablish the Turkish government's commitment to normalized relations in order to ensure peace and stability in the Caucasus region. I strongly support these efforts.

The Armenian people are true survivors. Despite the reappearing themes of invasions and land loss that the Armenians have dealt with for over 3,000 years, coupled with the loss of between one-half and three-quarters of their population in the early 20th century, the people of Armenia have prevailed.

In fact, I have a wonderful Armenian intern in my office, Victoria Hines. Victoria's grandmother was born on a train in Moscow during her family's journey to America after her mother hid her father from the Ottoman Turks, allowing for their escape.

Despite watching their friends and even their own first-born perish in the genocide, the Tutunjian family, along with the rest of the Armenian people, view the stories of their families as reminders of the importance of preserving the fight for recognition.

The journey of the Armenian people continues today, with our shared responsibility to ensure that the Armenian people are able to build their own independent and prosperous future.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Armenian-American community to address the issues facing this longtime friend and important ally of the United States. Together we can build something positive, something hopeful, something good for the future—an Armenia that is respected and honored by its allies and neighbors.

And this cannot come without universal acknowledgement of the horror that was the Armenian Genocide.

IN RECOGNITION OF RONALD
McDONALD HOUSE OF LONG
BRANCH & NEW BRUNSWICK'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate The Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick's 25th Anniversary. The Ronald McDonald House organization and its charities have provided warm and hospitable living environments and support to families whose children are being treated at area hospitals at little or no cost. Their outpouring of support and charitable efforts to serve the members of their community is worthy of this body's recognition.

The Ronald McDonald House was established in 1974 through a collaborative effort by Philadelphia Eagles football player, Fred Hill and Dr. Audrey Evans at Children's Hospital of