

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

Philadelphia. Mr. Hill's three-year-old daughter Kim Hill and her childhood battle with leukemia inspired the model for the first Ronald McDonald House. Facing the rigors of multiple hospital visits, the Hill family sought to find a comfortable and supportive place of refuge for other parents facing similar situations. Through the support of Eagles owners, managers, teammates and various fundraising endeavors, the first Ronald McDonald House was opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Ronald McDonald House provided the amenities of home while offering families a comfortable and supportive environment with easy access to area hospitals. The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House would later act as the model for what would become an international network of temporary housing for families of ill children. By 1985, more than 88 Ronald McDonald Houses were established worldwide. The popular and unique fundraising strategies, including the "Pop Tab Collection Recycling Program", were raised millions for participating Houses and furthered the success of the organization. In 1984, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) was established in memory of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. Since its inception, RMHC and its network of Chapters have awarded more than \$16 million in grants to more than 1,300 U.S. Children's organizations.

As a result of their commendable efforts, for two consecutive years, Worth magazine named RMHC one of "America's 100 Best charities of 2002".

The Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick, New Jersey was established in 1987 and services community members throughout the State. Through the support of area businesses, organizations, civic groups, schools and individuals, as well as various fundraising and special events, the two Houses have served more than 4,000 families.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking the Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick for their 25 years of service. The Ronald McDonald House continues to provide outstanding services to the Middlesex, Monmouth and NJ community.

HONORING MS. LOURDES UBIETA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lourdes Ubieta, a Venezuelan-born journalist and freedom fighter.

Ms. Ubieta speaks three languages and has profound experience in journalism, with a specific interest in human rights. In her current position, she serves as a co-host on a daily talk radio program broadcasted on Actualidad 1020AM. The two-hour long program focuses on domestic and international issues, which informs and educates thousands of Spanish speakers in our community.

Ms. Ubieta's leadership was instrumental in the organization of Venezuela's 2012 Presidential primary elections in Doral, Florida. With her assistance, twenty voting stations were set up at a strip plaza in order to accommodate the expected turnout. In all, more than 8,000 Venezuelan's exercised the right to vote in

their homeland's primary. Ms. Ubieta's commitment to democracy and the Venezuelan community in South Florida is clearly evident and extraordinary.

The numerous awards Ms. Ubieta has received are further proof of her hard work and dedication. In the past three years, she has been recognized by the Venezuelan American Chamber of Commerce, Broward Community Center, and has received the Venezuelan Business Club Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a dear friend, Ms. Lourdes Ubieta for her outstanding professional career and leadership in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this accomplished individual and wish her continued success.

THE CITY OF MOUND TURNS 100

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the centennial of the city of Mound, Minnesota. And although this picturesque community was officially incorporated in 1912, its roots run all the way back to before the Civil War when the town was known as Mound City.

In the early days, Mound was a bustling business district on the shores of Cooks Bay, frequented by the street car boats which travelled Lake Minnetonka at the turn of the 19th century. In 1900, the railroad came to town, requiring the business district to move to where we see it today.

From a city which derives its name from Indian burial mounds, this vibrant community has not only flourished over its 100 years as a home to close to 10,000 Minnesotans—and this year being named Minnesota's Best Place to Raise Your Kids 2012 by Bloomberg Businessweek—but has also been home to many of Minnesota's innovative small businesses.

I'd like to congratulate Mayor Hanus, and all of my neighbors who call Mound home—Happy 100th!

SALLIE MAE LOAN SERVICING CENTER IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Sallie Mae Loan Servicing Center in Hanover Township, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary today, April 25, 2012.

The Student Loan Marketing Association, commonly known as Sallie Mae, was originally created in 1972 as a government sponsored enterprise. In 1997, Sallie Mae began privatizing its operations. At the end of 2004, Congress terminated Sallie Mae's federal charter, officially ending its ties to the government. Today, Sallie Mae is the nation's number one financial services company specializing in education and offering a wide range of products and services from college savings programs to education loans.

Currently, Sallie Mae employs an estimated 8,000 individuals nationwide and is one of the largest employers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to providing jobs, Sallie Mae sponsors The Sallie Mae Fund, a charitable organization with a mission to increase access to higher education for America's students. In honor of the Hanover Township facility's 25th anniversary, The Sallie Mae Fund announced a \$150,000 donation to the Osterhout Free Library in Wilkes-Barre to support the library's early literacy outreach program. The Fund also supports employee volunteerism and community service. I am proud to say that Sallie Mae employees have raised more than \$2.5 million for Pennsylvania charities.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 25 years, Sallie Mae has proudly served the citizens of Hanover Township and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend Sallie Mae and all those employed at the Loan Servicing Center for their dedication to education, to the community, and to our country.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK: PREVENTING PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHEA WITH THE POWER OF VACCINES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this week marks World Immunization Week, in which countries across the globe mobilize for a week of vaccination campaigns and public education about the value of immunization. I rise today to celebrate a major milestone in global health: the rollout of two new vaccines to protect infants from two of the biggest killers of children under the age of five—pneumonia and diarrhea—that is taking place today in Ghana.

Hundreds of Ghanaians have played a frontline role in making their country the first in Africa to simultaneously introduce both pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines to their people. While the Government and the people of Ghana are to be congratulated for this unprecedented accomplishment, I also want to acknowledge the role U.S. taxpayers have played in making this moment possible.

The United States' commitment to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance) has been instrumental in making these vaccines affordable and accessible for children in the world's poorest countries. Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions. By supporting new vaccines, the GAVI Alliance is well within target to immunize more than 250 million children in the world's poorest countries by 2015, preventing more than 4 million premature deaths.

Seattle, which I represent, has made significant contributions toward the United States becoming a leader in global health innovation, including vaccination research. For example, earlier this year, promising preliminary results from the trial of a malaria vaccine known as RTS,S made headlines around the world when it showed that nearly fifty percent of children who received the vaccine were protected from malaria—a leading cause of death among children in developing countries. The Bill and