

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 65th Israeli Independence Day. Today we rejoice in Israel's virtues, embrace its people, and renew our nation's commitment to standing alongside Israel in defense of its right to safety and prosperity. Am Yisrael Chai—the people of Israel live!

RECOGNIZING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF POMFRET, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 300th anniversary of the Town of Pomfret, Connecticut, located in the 2nd Congressional District. The citizens of this community will celebrate the anniversary with festivities on May 22, 2013.

Rich with history and tradition, the Town of Pomfret has retained much of its old-time charm and beauty for which many of the New England communities are so famous. It is nestled in the rolling hills of northeastern Connecticut and is one of the diminishing number of communities in our part of the country which still maintains a rustic and gentle way of life so characteristic of America a generation or two ago.

The Town of Pomfret was settled by pioneer colonists and incorporated in the year 1713. Because of its beautiful location and its rural atmosphere, it has been for many years a summer resort for city dwellers. It still boasts active farms, with apple and peach orchards and dairy farms in its 38 square miles. The town has overwhelmingly approved the preservation of over 1200 acres of open space in the course of the last decade.

The 300th Anniversary of the town will actually be observed over the full year of 2013 and many events have been planned by committee working diligently over the past few years. Festivities began with a Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band Concert, a Commemorative Quilt has been made by residents, displayed at various locations, and will be presented to the town, Pomfret was Grand Marshall in the area's Holiday Parade, there have been ice-skating parties, walking events, artwork displayed, and a special Tercentennial Ball has been planned.

Historical phases of the event include a self-guided historical tour map showcasing many historic homes and public buildings, a program of Characters from Colonial Connecticut, a talk by State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni about aboriginal inhabitants, CT Women's Suffrage Program, an historical talk on General Israel Putnam—a Revolutionary War hero—and a commemorative postmark.

As the Representative of Putnam in the U.S. House, I want to pay a well-deserved tribute to those early settlers of Pomfret who helped build our country through their hard work, struggles, and sacrifices. The record of their achievements lives to this day in the hearts and memories of their descendants who can take pride in the legacy handed down to them, a legacy of patriotism and devotion to our nation. Mr. Speaker, I salute the citizens of Pomfret on this festive occasion. All of us in eastern Connecticut take great pride in this

community. I am confident that Pomfret's 300th anniversary will be a great and successful event, and I hope that the next 300 years in the history of this community will be as happy and prosperous for its people as it has been in the past.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RICHARD OTTINGER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Richard Ottinger, Esq. for his lifetime of public service. His indefatigable dedication to his community and his students is an inspiration to us all.

As a Member of Congress for 16 years, Mr. Ottinger proudly represented the people of New York's 25th, 24th, and 20th districts. As one of the earliest environmentalists in Congress in 1965, Mr. Ottinger authored a substantial number of energy and environmental laws. He served as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee, where he was instrumental in adopting critical energy and environmental legislation. Notably, Mr. Ottinger was the chief sponsor of the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 and the Conservation Service Reform Act of 1984.

Prior to his service in Congress, Mr. Ottinger served in the United States Air Force for two years. He was discharged as a Captain in 1957 and was admitted to the New York bar, where he practiced international and corporate law. He then became one of the founders and second staff member of the Peace Corps, where he served as director of programs for the west coast of South America from 1961 to 1964.

Upon retiring from Congress in 1984, Mr. Ottinger joined Pace Law School as a Professor in the Environmental Law Program. As co-director of the Center for Environmental Legal Studies, he founded the Pace Energy Project in 1987, later renamed the Pace Energy and Climate Center. The Center, which raises \$900,000 per year, advocates for utility investment in conservation and renewable energy resources. In December 1994, Mr. Ottinger was appointed Dean of the Law School, where he served until 1999. Mr. Ottinger currently serves as Dean Emeritus of the Law School.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Ottinger has been honored with a number of awards, including the 2009 EPA Environmental Quality Award. Pace Law School will also be honoring Mr. Ottinger with the dedication of the Richard L. Ottinger Hall on April 30.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Honorable Richard Ottinger's tremendous accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS BARNES

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Barnes on re-

ceiving the Champions of Courage recognition from the White House. This program recognizes individuals who do extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. Thomas has empowered many of Iowa's needy children through his service.

Thomas has chaired the Marion-East Cedar Rapids Rotary Club's "Shoes for Kids" program since 2003. This program started in two local school districts, but was quickly expanded as the need grew. Through this program, Thomas and his fellow Rotarians have raised over \$50,000 to provide over 3,500 Iowa children with shoes.

Thomas has also used this program to support children affected by natural disasters. In May 2008, an E-5 tornado devastated the town of Parkersburg, Iowa. Weeks later, Cedar Rapids was inundated by floodwaters. Thomas made an appeal to Rotarians nationwide to assist these children that had lost everything. Recently, Thomas sent eighty pairs of shoes with a fellow Rotarian participating in a polio immunization campaign in Nigeria to donate to a local orphanage.

Thomas Barnes has positively impacted the lives of thousands of children and I'm honored to represent him in Congress. I congratulate him receiving this special acknowledgment from the White House. I wish Thomas and the rest of the Rotary Club well in the future of their Shoes for Kids program.

147TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ASPCA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The ASPCA, headquartered in my congressional district on the East side of Manhattan, was founded 147 years ago this month. The oldest animal welfare organization in the United States, the ASPCA is the leading voice for the prevention of cruelty to animals in New York City and nationwide.

This past year, the ASPCA answered the call to help families and animals affected by Hurricane Sandy in my district and all across New York City. When families were displaced by the hurricane, the ASPCA set up a temporary boarding facility where pets remained safe and properly cared for while families worked to rebuild or find permanent housing. In the aftermath of the storm, the ASPCA was in Sandy-affected areas to rescue and reunite animals with their families, distribute critical supplies, and provide veterinary care for impacted animals. More than 300 animals were rescued by ASPCA responders after Sandy, and through a pet supply distribution network and mobile wellness clinics, the ASPCA assisted tens of thousands of animals in storm-affected areas of New York City and Long Island.

I am proud to congratulate the ASPCA and its over 2.5 million supporters nationwide on the organization's 147th anniversary. They continue to be the voice of those unable to speak for themselves.