

towards the region over the next half century, culminating in European Jewry's attempts to flee Hitler in the 1930s.

After World War II, the desire for a Jewish state became even stronger and world wide support for Zionism grew as the truth of the Holocaust was revealed in all its horror. On May 14, 1948, the Jewish Agency declared the creation of the State of Israel.

Conflicts with the countries surrounding Israel meant that Israel was not the safe haven the Jewish people had envisioned. Nonetheless, and despite the dangers, Israel has thrived as an oasis of idealism, technological wonder, and democracy in the midst of the desert. Strong support for Israel is a core national security interest of the United States, as well as an expression of the decades-long alliance between our two nations.

I ask all Members to join me in commemorating the 66th anniversary of Israel's Independence.

HONORING THE GRADUATES OF
THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH AD-
VISORY COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2013–2014 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 53 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their community, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation.

Each year, the students in CYAC exceed my expectations ten-fold. They share innovative, inspiring, and impacting ideas on how to build a better America now and in the future. Their impressive and diverse credentials speak for themselves. Participating in student government, community service, honor societies, athletics, fine arts, and language clubs exemplifies their educational excellence and steadfast commitment to our community.

Over the past year, we met twice to discuss the most current issues of the day, such as the national debt, balancing the budget, and tax reform. But let me tell you, these students have done much more than just attend meetings. They have filled out surveys, done homework on current events, and engaged in policy conversations impacting their future.

More specifically, they have interacted with community leaders, such as John Schomburger, First Assistant District Attorney for Collin County, who discussed his work at the Veterans court. They also toured the Collin County Threat Fusion Center with Kelly Stone, Director of Homeland Security for Collin County to learn how to respond to a terrorist attack and how the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice work together to prevent them in the first place.

Lastly, to ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting their experience for the "Preserving History

Project." As President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." I thank them for learning about the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans who sacrificed so much so we could live free. We are forever indebted to them.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. You are the voices of the future and know I am very proud of you. God bless you and God bless America. I salute you.

Amit Banerjee, Andre Bergstein, Connor Bresnahan, Julia Bristol, Richard Chen, Bridget Colliton, John Copley, Brock Crawford, Mark Douglass, Alicia D'Souza, William Elliott, Audrey Fisher, Rakshana Govindarajan, Aayush Goyal, Grace Han, Katheryn Hawley, Brent He, Lauren Hebig, Sarah Hossain, Sydney House, Spencer Humphrey.

MacKenzie Jenkins, Thomas Kim, Justin Kong, Candice Lee, Paul Lim, Connor Madden, Daniel Madden, Soumya Mandava, Hollis Meachum, Anthony Niedzielski, Jacob Przada, Regan Railey, Jason Randoing, Sam Schell, Ryan Snitzer, Connor Spencer, Anjali Sridharan, Brennan Stewart, Makenzie Stuard, William Su, Jessica Todd, Amelia Trotter, Simic Tuan, Victoria Van de Kop, Faith Wada, Andrew Wicker.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN
MAUREEN KORCZYNSKI AND
KEVIN P. GOW, JR. ON THEIR
MARRIAGE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in recognizing Megan Maureen Korczynski and Kevin P. Gow, Jr. as they celebrate their devotion to each other and to their future together.

They are to celebrate their commitment to each other on Saturday, May 24, 2014 at Saint Andrew's Catholic Church in Delavan, Wisconsin.

Megan Maureen has been living and working in Chicago receiving her Bachelor degree of Fine Arts in Interior Design from the Chicago International Academy of Design and Technology while her fiancé, Kevin P. Gow, Jr. has also been living and working in Chicago receiving his Master's Degree from DePaul University.

The union of these two individuals, Megan Maureen Korczynski, daughter of Edwin J., Major, United States Air Force/CAP, and Diane M., mother of 5 daughters and a teacher of special education for 25 years; and Kevin P. Gow, Jr. son of Kevin Gow, Sr. Captain USMC and the late Lynne Dwight Gow, mother of 3 and nursing advisor for Met Life Long Term Care.

As George Elliot once said, "What greater thing is there for two human souls that to feel that they are joined together to strengthen

each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?"

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both families share in the happiness of this union. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them well as they begin their new life together.

RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN BUSI-
NESS DIVISION OF THE GRAND
PRAIRIE, TEXAS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the newly formed Asian Business Division of the Grand Prairie, Texas Chamber of Commerce. I was honored to speak at this unique group's first meeting on May 13, 2014.

The Asian population is the fastest growing community in this already diverse city. The Chamber's new division will focus on reaching out to this demographic to make sure they have the tools and resources to build a strong business community in Grand Prairie.

It is based in a complex known as Asia Time Square. The shopping development is already home to dozens of Asian businesses—with plans to add dozens more.

The Asian Business Division plans to drive economic growth in the city by continuing to lure businesses and jobs to the area, taking a strategic approach to building the groups' brand, improving the overall value of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce in the area, and creating a dynamic business development plan that assists a diverse employer base.

This unique partnership wouldn't be possible without the hard work of countless people, including leadership of the Chamber of Commerce and the Loh Family (which owns and operates Asia Times Square).

I am confident that this new relationship will benefit everyone in the area and ensure that it competes successfully for new businesses, new jobs and only makes Grand Prairie a more attractive place to live, work, play and raise a family.

CHARLENE FARRELL—HOSPICE OF
HUNTINGTON RETIREMENT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, tonight, Hospice of Huntington will honor one of its long time stalwarts and earliest leaders. This great organization is distinguished by the respect and gratitude of the larger community it so ably, and with so much empathy, serves so faithfully. One daughter, whose father had been a hospice patient, wrote with her "sincere and heartfelt appreciation" about the "graceful care and gentle mercy shown to my father in his