

In return, we must continue to help Israel in its struggle for security by helping reach a lasting peace with its neighbors so that as future generations celebrate this day, they may do so without fear of the violence that has plagued the Jewish state since its independence.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to visit Israel on several occasions, and have seen the struggles Israelis face daily. However, I have also seen their perseverance and determination to create a peaceful and prosperous state.

In the short but rich history of the Jewish state, the Israeli people have created one of the strongest democracies in the world, renowned for their scientific, technological, medical and agricultural innovations. Their commitment to promoting human rights, to protecting the rule of law, and to open and fair elections is unparalleled in the region and is an inspiration to oppressed people around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to congratulate the Israeli people and join them in celebrating the 57th Anniversary of Israel's independence, and look forward to working with them for years to come.

FREEDOM FOR IVÁN HERNÁNDEZ  
CARRILLO

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Iván Hernández Carrillo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Hernández Carrillo is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Democracy Party and an independent journalist. He is peacefully striving to create an open society that recognizes human rights, freedom, and democracy. Unfortunately, the dictatorship forcefully represses those who bravely support freedom and rise in resistance to the despotic regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Hernández Carrillo has been constantly harassed by the nightmare that is the Castro regime. He was arrested by the tyrant in 1997, 1999, and 2002 for his pro-democracy activities. Unfortunately, on March 18, 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was once again arrested by the dictatorship. In a sham trial, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was sentenced to an abominable 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to Amnesty International, in 2003, while incarcerated in the inhuman gulag, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was placed in a punishment cell. These punishment cells are the very depths of depravity. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004: "punishment cells, were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet. Reading materials, including Bibles, were not allowed. . . . Prisoners in punishment cells had no access to lawyers."

In 2004, according to Amnesty International, Mr. Hernández Carrillo supported his fellow pro-democracy fighter Mario Enrique Mayo in a hunger strike that lasted from August 15th

until August 25th. Their demands were medical assistance and food.

Mr. Hernández Carrillo is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he does not waiver in his conviction that freedom and democracy are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Hernández Carrillo, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Hernández Carrillo is languishing in the grotesque squalor of the gulag because he desires freedom for all Cubans. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Iván Hernández Carrillo and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN HONOR OF THE ACADEMY OF  
LIFELONG LEARNING'S 25TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Academy of Lifelong Learning on their 25th Anniversary. This continuing education program at the University of Delaware allows people over 50 to continue to pursue a wide variety of academic offerings. Recent classes have included Sports History, Yoga Philosophy, and Computer Management. For 25 years, the Academy's membership has been involved in every facet of the educational process. Members also plan, organize, and even teach many of these courses.

To mark its 25th anniversary, the Academy has planned the Hi Ho Silver Jubilee at the University of Delaware. The event will be highlighted by a performance of the 50-piece Academy Band and the 75-member Academy Chorus. From its original 83 members and 18 courses, the Academy has grown to over 2,000 members who can choose from over 200 courses. This remarkable growth can be directly attributed to the dedication and hard work of the Academy's original membership.

As stated in the 1998 mission statement of the council, the Academy of Lifelong Learning seeks to, "be a premier educational program composed of a diverse membership of people 50 and older who come together and are intellectually, culturally, and socially stimulated in an academic atmosphere. Through its programs, the Academy enhances, enriches, and extends the quality of life of its members." After 25 years of outstanding work, the Academy of Lifelong Learning continues to achieve its goal.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Academy and look forward to celebrating their future accomplishments.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON  
YALTA—AMNESIA OR DISTORTION?

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, these days of early May mark the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Last week, as we observed the days of remembrance for those who perished in the Holocaust, I noted that we need to remember history because looking back can help us to understand the world around us and to interpret events that may lie ahead.

This is important for our country and the world because our fate, and the fate of humanity, depends on our remembering and our understanding.

President Bush has been in Europe to mark the victory over Hitler. I am glad that he went, and I especially applaud him for visiting Latvia and Georgia. This was the right thing to do to demonstrate that America has not forgotten that the end of the war in Europe did not mean the end of oppression for millions of people who found themselves behind the Iron Curtain.

But learning from history depends on getting history right. And that's why I share the concerns of the Rocky Mountain News about part of the president's comments.

Speaking in Riga, Latvia, the president correctly noted that "For much of Eastern and Central Europe, victory brought the iron rule of another empire. V-E Day marked the end of fascism, but it did not end oppression." That was accurate, well put, and needed to be said.

However, regrettably, the president went on to say "The agreement at Yalta followed in the unjust tradition of Munich and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Once again, when powerful governments negotiated, the freedom of small nations was somehow expendable"—a statement that at best is erroneous and that at worse reflects an intentional distortion of history.

As an editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News notes, "Yalta did not leave the continent divided. The continent was already divided because Soviet armies were encamped in much of Eastern Europe and were not about to budge." In other words, the division of Europe was a fact before the Yalta conference began.

That is reality. But to somehow equate Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill with Molotov and Ribbentrop is something else entirely—either the product of a "delusion," as the historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. has suggested, or the revival of an intentional distortion that once was a political weapon for opponents of some of the president's predecessors.

As the historian David Greenberg, writing in *Slate* has noted, "Along with the myth of FDR's treachery in leading America into war, the 'stab in the back' interpretation of Yalta became a cudgel with which the old right and their McCarthyite heirs tried to discredit a president they had long despised. Renouncing Yalta even became a plank in the 1952 Republican platform, although Eisenhower did not support it. In time, however, these hoary myths receded into the shadows, dimly remembered except as a historical curiosity, where, alas, they should have remained undisturbed."