

Condemning such vitriol is important, but insufficient. Anti-semitism demands rebuttal; but the stakes here are not just one man's prejudice. At issue is the legitimacy and viability of the Israeli state. The United States in this circumstance has no moral option except to make unequivocally clear that Israel's survival is a bedrock American commitment.

There can and should be a role and place for a Palestinian state in the Middle East. But there never should be a question about the legitimacy of Israel. Peaceful coexistence is impossible if irrational aspirations such as those flaunted by President Ahmadinejad are perceived as realistic options.

It is false and counter-productive to think that Jewish-Muslim history begins after the Holocaust or that the rationale for a Jewish state comes exclusively from the Shoah. While the holocaust stamps a moral imprimatur on modern Israel, the cause of Israel's statehood predates the world's most capricious act of inhumanity.

The conflict that has emerged around the establishment of an Israeli state involves a multicentury exodus of a people from their homeland. But while the Bible is punctuated with wars and traumas, it is impressive how doing most of the last several millennia, Jews and Muslims have faced less hostility than Jews living in predominantly Christian countries.

Since biblical times, Jewish communities have thrived without interruption in Arab lands, in Persia and in historical Palestine. When Islam arrived in the Middle East in 633 A.D., intermarriage and even conversion were not uncommon. In fact, throughout the Middle East Jews experienced less Persecution and discrimination than they did in Europe. In Palestine, for instance, Muslims repeatedly protected their Jewish neighbors from European crusaders; in one instance at least, Jews fought alongside Muslims to prevent crusaders from landing in Haifa; and Saladin, after reconquering Jerusalem from the crusaders, invited Jews back into the city.

The Jews in Spain under Moorish rule flourished and experienced a renaissance mirroring that of the great Islamic civilization and culture at the time. As Christianity spread from the north of Spain, Jews were again protected by Muslim rulers until the fall of Granada—the last Moorish kingdom to pass into Christian hands—when both Jews and Muslims were expelled at the end of the 15th century. Most of the Jews from the Iberian peninsula settled in North Africa and the lands under Ottoman rule and continued their largely peaceful coexistence with Muslims in those countries.

What should be taken from this history is not that there is no case for an Israeli state in the Holy Land, but that individuals of the Jewish and Muslim faiths have a long record of successfully living together respecting each other's beliefs and culture. Yes, President Ahmadinejad, there is a Western responsibility to help and defend Israel. But there is an Eastern imperative to enhance the prospect of a more dignified life for all people in the region.

What should also be taken from the history of the last two millennia is that the Jewish people generally found themselves in a position of vulnerability precisely because they lacked a state of their own. Relations within the Muslim world were usually better than within most parts of the Christian world, but

dependency and the potential of violence characterized inter-faith power relationships. Security was always in doubt.

In this historical context, the case for a Jewish state is profound. The only thing that comes from statements like those of President Ahmadinejad is less respect for Iranian leadership, more distrust between peoples, and abundant concerns that violence will accelerate.

History is an accumulated product to which each generation adds. If any generation allows acts of hatred to become the dominant theme of interpersonal relations, it is harder for the next to break out of an angry memory cycle. Thus the challenge in the Middle East today is to give harmony a chance, recognizing that current Jewish-Muslim tension is an aberration. Peace is the historical norm.

Because the past is often more controversial and volatile than current events, it is essential that we study history both from our own perspective and that of others. Denial is not simply obtuse; it is hate inspiring. Iran and the world, deserve better.

H. RES. 597, RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING DON HO ON HIS CAREER IN MUSIC

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas Don Ho is one of Hawaii's and the world's best known and most beloved musical performers;

Whereas Don Ho has entertained and shared Hawaii's Aloha Spirit with millions of visitors to the State and others around the world;

Whereas, after being discharged from the United States Air Force, Don Ho received his start in show business at Honey's cocktail lounge in Kaneohe, Hawaii;

Whereas in 1962, Don Ho began performing at Duke's in Waikiki, which became his home venue;

Whereas Don Ho has for years been backed by the five Aliis playing piano, drums, guitars, xylophone, and other instruments;

Whereas Don Ho's fame and popularity has earned him triumphant engagements at the Coconut Grove in Hollywood, the Sands in Las Vegas, Harrah's at Lake Tahoe, the Palmer House in Chicago, the Americana Hotel's Royal Box in New York;

Whereas, Don Ho has made guest television guest appearances with Johnny Carson, Joey Bishop and Art Linkletter

Be it Resolved that the House of Representatives:

(1) Congratulates Don Ho on his splendid career;

(2) Recognizes Don Ho for his efforts to share Hawaii's Aloha Spirit with his audiences and others around the world; and

(3) Conveys its best wishes for continuing success in his musical career.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my old friend for his impressive musical career and his iconic status as the undisputed king of Waikiki entertainers.

For over 40 years Don Ho has entertained audiences in Waikiki, sharing his Aloha Spirit

by singing "Tiny Bubbles" as well as his other favorite songs. He casts a spell on audiences through his blend of trademark humor, charm and vocal talents. He continues to mesmerize audiences today.

Don Ho's magical persona captures audiences' enthusiasm with each performance through laughter and song. He is charismatic and personable, and he converses with everyone like there's no one else in the room. He is a beloved son of Hawaii, and I look forward to his next performance at the Waikiki Beachcomber. Much love and aloha to Don and his family.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN KELLY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Kelly, a constituent of mine from Burlingame, California, who has been working to make our community a better place since the 1970's. Mr. Kelly has recently been awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award for his work as the former executive director of Samaritan House and as a volunteer at San Quentin State Prison.

Mr. Kelly has lived and worked around the Bay Area for most of his life. He began his community involvement as a Catholic priest, but left to become a teacher at Serra and Menlo Atherton high schools for 18 years. In 1985, he was hired by the county of San Mateo to merge Samaritan House, then a referral service in San Mateo for low income residents, with a nonprofit meal program.

Mr. Speaker, under John's stewardship, Samaritan House expanded to serve throughout San Mateo County, with a 90-bed shelter, a medical clinic, and provides food, clothing and counseling. Mainly through donations, Samaritan House provides assistance to approximately 12,000 residents.

In 1991, Mr. Kelly began a program for inmates at San Quentin State Prison called Kairos, a three-day workshop with spiritual talks, singing and discussions. He visits the prison weekly, attending mass and leading spiritual discussions with the hope of trying to change even the hardest of criminals. He has done just that with many prisoners, some who have gotten out of prison have gone to school in an effort to make John proud.

Mr. Speaker, John Kelly is one of those unique people who work tirelessly to make their community's better. I wish there were more John Kelly's in the world, and I am just so pleased that he is one of my neighbors. I once again ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary individual.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Senator William Proxmire. For over three decades, Senator

Proxmire served the people of Wisconsin with a tenacious devotion to the principles of civic responsibility and ethical leadership. The effects of his determination to uphold these values reach beyond the Badger State and the halls of the Senate, as his legacy of fighting for integrity and accountability in governance has benefited all people of the United States.

Public service shaped Senator Proxmire's life at an early age. After graduating from Yale University in 1938, he served our country in World War II as an officer in the Army Counterintelligence Corps. His desire to continue fighting for the American people brought him to Wisconsin, where he served in the state Assembly from 1950–1956. In 1958 he won his first victory for the United States Senate where he went on to serve for over 30 years.

Senator Proxmire was most well known for his Golden Fleece awards, which he used to single out “wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayers’ money.” Senator Proxmire brought many important issues to the people's attention and because of these awards he was able to halt numerous science and academic projects that were of no real value. He will forever be remembered for his contributions to this end and for making wasteful government spending a real issue.

Senator Proxmire's 32 years in the Senate were distinguished by innumerable accomplishments. He was the driving force behind the 1968 “Truth in Lending” act, critically improving the transparency and fairness of loans. He fought racial discrimination in real estate. As chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, he authored the 1980 Banking Deregulation Act. However, his most significant contribution was his tireless determination for the ratification of an international treaty outlawing genocide. Nearly every day for 19 years, Senator Proxmire spoke of the importance of the treaty from the Senate floor until it was finally adopted in 1986.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM
NEWTON HEAPS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mr. William Newton Heaps and to recognize his many accomplishments. He is truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family and service to one's community. William Heaps was born August 20, 1930 to Johnnie and Louise Vandiver Heaps and raised on a farm in Franklin County in Alabama's Fourth Congressional District. While residing in Russellville, Alabama, William Heaps was manager of the Farmers' Co-Op for numerous years. Later he moved to Clanton, Alabama and there he was sales representative for Fuller Supply Co. of Birmingham for 29 years until his retirement in March of 2000. As an adult he attended singing schools in addition to being privately taught by F.R. Morgan, a student of Vaughan Normal School of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. “My Title to Those Mansions” was the first song written by William Heaps and it was published in 1966 by Vaughan Music Company.

This was the first of over 100 songs that he has written. As a member of the First Methodist Church of Clanton, William Heaps has served for several years on the administrative board. He has also served as Chairman of the Chilton County Gospel Singing Convention. He was a representative for the Vaughan and the Tennessee Music Companies for a number of years. He has served on the Supreme Cabinet, as Chaplin, as Vice-President and as President of the Convention. He currently serves as a representative for the Gospel Heritage Music Company. He has been a great supporter of and actively engaged in the Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention for many years. As he continues to write music, he resides in Clanton with his wife, Bernice. They have two twin daughters, Shelia Mims and Shirley Henley, and a son Tommy Heaps, who is now a Methodist Minister. They also have one granddaughter, Laura Heaps, and two grandsons, Will Heaps and Scott Mims. William Heaps is a true “Christian Gentleman” who is compassionate and respectful toward others. He is a great “encourager” with a positive outlook and sound advice. He is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his friends and colleagues in recognizing one of Alabama's great composers of gospel songs.

REMEMBERING JUNE GILMER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable Texan, June Womack Gilmer, who passed away this year after a valiant battle with Alzheimer's. A descendant of one of Texas's pioneering families, the Lydays, she could trace her family ancestry back to 17th century Williamsburg, Virginia, and 13th century Runnymede, England.

June was born in Honey Grove and raised in the small town of Wolfe City, in the Fourth Congressional District. She married her childhood sweetheart, Ray Gilmer, and they soon settled in Garland, Texas, where June raised her family and pursued numerous civic endeavors. She was president of the PTA, Garden Club, and wives club of the Garland Junior Chamber of Commerce. She was a regent and registrar of the Colonel James Mason Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, an officer of the John Wheeler Bunton Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and the Magna Carta Dames.

A beautiful and accomplished woman, June was a runner-up in the Mrs. Texas contest in the 1950s. She studied interior design in college and for many years worked as a decorator and volunteered her talents for many worthy causes. June and my wife, Mary Ellen, were very close friends. Our families shared food and cars as Ray Gilmer attended the SMU School of Engineering and I was attending the SMU School of Law. Our children played together and we felt a deep and life-long kinship to the Gilmers.

June is survived by her adored and adoring husband of 60 years, Ray Gilmer, daughter Jamie Williams and son-in-law Dr. Craig Williams, daughter Anne Snow and husband James Snow, six grandchildren, and other family members and life-long friends. Their

loss is shared by all those who knew June Womack Gilmer, and we join them in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of this wonderful woman. As we adjourn the United States House of Representatives today, let us do so in memory of and respect for June and the wonderful Gilmer family.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
SENATOR EUGENE MCCARTHY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my good friend Senator Eugene McCarthy, former member of the United States Congress, presidential candidate, political activist and author.

Senator McCarthy is a well-known and respected anti-war activist. His voice rose above the crowd against the Vietnam War due to his power and influence in politics. In 1968, Mr. McCarthy garnered an unprecedented number of college students opposed to the Vietnam War to campaign for the Presidency against the incumbent President Lyndon B. Johnson. College students supported Mr. McCarthy because he believed that America should end its involvement in Vietnam. Students from around the country campaigned door to door promoting the slogan “get clean for Gene,” referring to the students shaving off their beards and cutting their long hair. While his views sparked many to campaign for him, he still had a disappointing defeat in the Democratic primary. Although he lost this race, he won a much bigger one. He stood up for what he believed in and would not back down, even in the face of adversity.

Senator McCarthy left politics in 1971 after a distinguished career as United States Congressman and Senator from Minnesota. He spent time writing his memoirs and other books and poems on politics. Senator McCarthy remained active in politics throughout the rest of his life, including running for different offices and supporting other campaigns. Keeping involved in politics, Senator McCarthy stated his opposition for campaign finance laws argued in the Buckley v. Valeo case. In 1980, he wrote the introduction to the campaign book of Libertarian Presidential candidate Ed Clark. Senator McCarthy continued participation in progressive politics with the Consumer party in Pennsylvania and the Minnesota Progressive party. He returned to the Democratic Party in 1992 as a Presidential candidate in the New Hampshire primary. More recently he was a strong and influential supporter of Ralph Nader's 2000 Presidential campaign. After his political career ended, Senator McCarthy became a prolific writer and poet. He authored 30 books and multiple poems about the decline of American politics.

Senator Eugene McCarthy passed away on December 10, 2005, at the age of 89. He will be remembered as an influential and respected politician. More importantly, his contributions to the anti-war movement and influence on college students' political activism will live on in future campaigns and protests. His service as a Representative of Minnesota in Congress will not soon be forgotten.