

has served as vital tool in peacekeeping efforts around the world. Our long, shared history of democracy and peace is an ideal that should be cherished and honored.

Just as my grandparents ventured to the United States from Italy, the first Greek Americans came here to find a better life for themselves and their families. Their descendants have risen to the highest levels of American culture, government and society. Greek Independence Day is a day to honor the contributions, traditions, and successes of our fellow Greek Americans and our Greek friends abroad.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, and I am truly proud to recognize and commemorate Greek Independence Day alongside the vibrant Greek community in Northern New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Greek Americans, and all of our Greek friends around the world, in recognizing the 192nd Greek Independence Day.

HONORING SANJEEV "SONNY"
BHAGOWALIA

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonny Bhagowalia, Hawaii's State Chief Information Officer. Sonny recently received the prestigious "Federal 100 Award" from Federal Computer Week magazine.

This award honors the top leaders in industry, academia and government who have had a significant impact on the government information systems community. This year, Hawaii is the only state government to be recognized for its proactive efforts to maximize the use of technology.

Since 2011, Sonny has served as Hawaii's first CIO, planning and implementing the state's IT transformation, and overseeing its new Office of Information Management and Technology. He has repeatedly been honored for his contributions to IT advancement in Hawaii, including two previous Federal 100 Awards.

Sonny's efforts to modernize and invest in Hawaii's technology infrastructure have laid the groundwork for more effective government service and business processes.

I extend my congratulations to Sonny, his very talented team, and the State of Hawaii for this much-deserved honor.

EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL HIGH
SCHOOL WISCONSIN INTER-
SCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
TION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team, the Old Abes, on winning the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championship. Their 6-1 victory over Verona on March 2, 2013 was a true display of sportsmanship and teamwork.

After starting 0-2-1 and finishing second to Hudson in the Big Rivers Conference, the team faced a seemingly impossible road to the State Championship. But the Old Abes did not let those set-backs deter them from their dream of being the second team in history to bring home the State Championship for Eau Claire Memorial High School.

With the loss of two key players before the season started, Coach Mike Schwengler and senior team captain Brady Bollinger worked hard to build the young team into a strong, cohesive unit. After reassigning some key players to new positions, the puzzle pieces started to fit together, and the Old Abes won 20 of their last 23 games.

Nonetheless, heading into the championship off of an incredible winning streak, the team still found themselves down 1-0 late in the first period. The team banded together and rose to the challenge. Bollinger answered Verona's goal less than a minute later to tie the score, and the rest of the team stepped up to follow his lead. Jacob Bresser scored two goals, Charley Graaskamp added a goal and two assists, and Dylan Ross added a goal and an assist. Finally, Austin Phippen had the sixth and final goal, while Alex Geving, the goalie, finished the game with a phenomenal 26 saves.

This momentous win at the end of a difficult season exemplifies the dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship of each and every member of the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team. Furthermore, this victory shines as a proud achievement for the Eau Claire community. Once again, I want to congratulate the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team on their incredible season and hard-earned title as Wisconsin State Champions.

RECOGNIZING ELIE WIESEL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also the president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD recognizing Elie Wiesel on the occasion of Yom Hashoah, the 65th Anniversary of the State of Israel, and the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Rabbi Zoberman's statement follows:

Elie Wiesel, the most distinguished representative of the Holocaust survivors' generation, has risen from Auschwitz's hell which he entered at age fifteen, to become the world's witness to the human condition and humanity's prophetic voice of both sacred remembrance and chastising warning. He even admits to making enemies because of his steadfast stance against trivializing Auschwitz, protectively defining the Holocaust as "the Event."

The 1986 Nobel Peace Laureate—he deserves the literature prize too—and Founding Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, who as earned our nation's

greatest honors along with foreign high ones, enjoys a special relationship with President Obama and is presently collaborating on a joint literary project. In the latest book of this prolific author, *Open Heart*, Wiesel opens his aching and grateful heart to us following the watershed impact of his open heart surgery on June 16, 2011, at age 82. He utilizes this trying medical and life-changing ordeal to teach us about life's demanding trials and transitions, courageously facing his own mortality at his "greatest pain and darkest anguish."

This master teacher who is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University is asking challenging questions: How well has he fulfilled his obligation as a survivor with a consecrated mission to tell a tale of woes without despairing of the Creator nor of a blemished creation, wrestling with a God who deprived him of so much but also blessed him beyond measure? Having contributed immeasurably toward a sane and sacred world, ever standing guard, Wiesel nonetheless doubts if he has done all he could and should have in his struggle against evil. He and fellow survivors believed that the world would change for the better, never allowing for genocides again, and how painful it must be for heart-broken Wiesel to conclude, "The fact is, the world has learned nothing."

May Wiesel fulfill his heart's fondest desire to live to witness the B'nai Mitzvah celebrations of his beloved grandchildren Elijah and Shira, the children of son Elisha who is named for Wiesel's father Shlomo who perished so close to liberation. May he do so along with his wife Marion, faithful soulmate and professional helpmate, herself a survivor from Vienna, Austria. Her brainchild is Beit Tzipora in Israel, the centers to enrich Ethiopian children, named for Wiesel's precious little sister whom he saw with their mother for the last time upon the arrival in Auschwitz. Reading Wiesel's transforming account a few days following the multiple tragedies at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., the following line resonates with painfully heart-felt relevance, "We must choose between the violence of adults and the smiles of children, between the ugliness of hate and the will to oppose it."

The 20th Anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, with which Wiesel has been so intimately connected, is testimony to his vision to ensure in the face of Holocaust deniers and the ravages of time's forgetfulness that the indispensable facts and essential lessons of the holocaust will endure for the sake of humanity. The museum has already exposed millions of Americans and other visitors in our nation's capital to its sacred work, shedding light on history's darkest chapter. I'm ever grateful to this U.S. sponsored museum as a son and grandson of Polish Holocaust survivors with heavy family losses in Zamosc, Poland, and Sarny, Ukraine. I was born in Kazakhstan on November 12, 1945 and spent my early childhood in Germany's American zone of the Wetzlar Displaced Persons Camp, before finding refuge and home with my family and most of the survivors in the reborn State of Israel now celebrating its 65th proud anniversary. Wiesel reportedly was invited in the past to be Israel's president.

Israel's accomplishments in all fields of endeavor are astonishing given its humble beginnings and ever trying circumstances. This vibrant democratic oasis and America's trusted ally in a mutually beneficial bond more significant than ever, is surrounded by a wide wilderness and exposed to substantial threats following the "Arab Spring" with its, so far, destabilizing Islamist victory. It is truly an inspiring expression of the Jewish