

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A RESOLUTION

To commend Israel upon the sixty-fifth anniversary of her independence, to recognize the cordial and mutually beneficial relationship between Israel and the state of Louisiana and the contributions of Israel to humankind, and to express support for the people of Israel and for their right to defend themselves and to live in freedom.

WHEREAS, the land of Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish people, where their spiritual, religious, and national identity has been formed, where they have achieved independence, and where they have created a culture of national and universal significance; and

WHEREAS, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob promised in Genesis 12:3 to bless those who bless Israel through the promise He made to Abraham: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"; and

WHEREAS, the claim and presence of the Jewish people in Israel has remained constant throughout more than three thousand years of history; and

WHEREAS, when exiled from Israel, the Jewish people remained faithful to Israel in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and the restoration of their national freedom; and

WHEREAS, the legal basis for the establishment of the modern state of Israel was a binding resolution under International Law, which was unanimously adopted by the League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently affirmed by both houses of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the resolution affirmed the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in the historical region of the land of Israel, including the areas of Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, Article 80 of the United Nations charter recognizes the continued validity of the rights granted to states or peoples which already existed under international instruments; therefore, the 1922 League of Nations resolution remains valid, and the six hundred fifty thousand Jews currently residing in the areas of Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem reside there legitimately; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion, the modern State of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, and Israel has had to defend herself and her right to exist since her founding; and

WHEREAS, Israel declares that she will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew prophets; will uphold the full social and political equality of all her citizens, without distinction of race, creed, or sex; and will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education, and culture; and

WHEREAS, Israel is the foremost leader in the Middle East and a shining example for the rest of the world relative to the recognition of the basic equality and dignity of women, providing full and equal opportunities for women to vote, hold elected office, own property, and pursue and engage in any occupation, profession, or trade; and

WHEREAS, Israel is a great friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East, and 2010 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement, which was the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States; it continues to serve as the foundation for expanding trade and investment between the United States and Israel by reducing barriers and promoting regulatory transparency; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana and Israel have long enjoyed a special friendship that strengthens with each passing year; and

WHEREAS, Israel and Louisiana also have strong economic ties, and numerous Louisiana companies have experienced the benefits of doing business with Israel; and

WHEREAS, exports sustain thousands of Louisiana businesses, and foreign investment creates Louisiana jobs; the tradition of trade between Israel and Louisiana remains strong and has a positive impact on both economies; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Louisiana ranked sixth in the United States for merchandise exports to Israel, according to the United States Department of Commerce, with more than

two hundred ninety-two million exports to Israel; also in 2012, Louisiana had nearly fifty-two million merchandise imports from Israel; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the strong economic ties between Israel and Louisiana, the people of Israel and Louisiana have a rich history of shared values and mutual interests, and government officials from Louisiana have visited Israel on numerous occasions, furthering collaboration and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the people of Israel have been persecuted throughout history, and there are still those who express a strong desire for the destruction of Israel, which faces continued threats to her safety; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend and congratulate the people of Israel upon the memorable and historic occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the independence of this great nation, to express support for Israel's freedom and security, and to recognize the genuine and abiding friendship between Israel and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Israel upon the sixty-fifth anniversary of her independence, does hereby recognize the cordial and mutually beneficial relationship between Israel and the state of Louisiana and the contributions of Israel to humankind, and does hereby express support for the people of Israel and for their right to defend themselves and live in freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ambassador Meir Shlomo, Consul General of Israel to the Southwest, and to Dr. Michael B. Oren, Ambassador of Israel to the United States.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES