

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATORS RISER, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, PEACOCK, PERRY, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the modern state of Israel on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of its establishment, to recognize the contributions of Israel to humankind, to express support for the people of Israel for their right to live in freedom and to defend their land and their country, and to extend best wishes to the state of Israel and to the Israeli people for a peaceful and prosperous future.

WHEREAS, Israel was historically granted her lands under and through the oldest recorded deed, as found in the Old Testament, which is a tome of Scripture revered by Jews and Christians alike as presenting the acts and words of God; and

WHEREAS, the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern state of Israel is directly linked to the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the land of Israel more than three thousand years ago, with the city of Jerusalem as its capital both then and now; and

WHEREAS, for over two thousand years, Jews living in other parts of the world maintained a profound spiritual and emotional connection to the land of Israel, and there has been continuous Jewish presence in the land comprising the modern state of Israel; and

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

WHEREAS, this binding 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 eastern Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, Article 80 of the United Nations charter recognized the continued

validity of the rights granted to states or peoples that already existed under international instruments, and considering the fact that the 1922 League of Nations resolution remains valid, then it is evident that the Jews currently residing in the areas of Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem reside there legitimately; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent state of Israel with the goal of re-establishing its God-given and legally recognized land as a homeland for the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the modern state of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people followed the destruction of much of the European Jewry during the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, the United States government established full diplomatic relations after Israel's first election in 1949; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment seventy years ago, the modern state of Israel has forged a new and dynamic society, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life; and

WHEREAS, the people of Israel, in the spirit of Israel's Declaration of Independence, have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system, which includes freedom of speech, association, and religion, a vigorously free press, free, fair and open elections, the rule of law, a fully independent judiciary, and other democratic principles and practices; and

WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the world's leading universities; and

WHEREAS, Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, is among the world's leaders of the high-tech industry, and is at the forefront of research and development in the fields of renewable energy sources and medicine; and

WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search and rescue teams, mobile hospitals, and other emergency supplies to help victims of disasters around the world; and

WHEREAS, Israel has taken in millions of Jews from countries throughout the world and sought to fully integrate them into Israeli society; and

WHEREAS, Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with Egypt and Jordan and has sought to achieve a secure peace with the Palestinians and Israel's other Arab neighbors; and

WHEREAS, for seven decades, the United States, the state of Louisiana, and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic and moral values, common strategic interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the state of Louisiana continue to regard Israel as a trusted ally and vital strategic partner in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the American people and the people of Louisiana feel a strong affinity for the Israeli people based on common values and shared cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana again wishes to re-affirm its desire that the United States of America remains a strong and unequivocal supporter of Israel and the right of Israel to defend itself in its own country; and

WHEREAS, April 18-19, 2018, the fifth day of Iyar, 5778 of the Hebrew calendar, marked the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel in the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate Israel on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of its establishment, recognize the contributions of Israel to humankind, express support for the people of Israel for their right to live in freedom and to defend their land and their country, and extend its best wishes to the state of Israel and to the Israeli people for a peaceful and prosperous future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Consul General of the State of Israel to the Southwest in Houston, Texas, and to the Embassy of Israel to the United States in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the proper authorities in the state of Israel.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE