

By Kevin McCarthy May 27, 2011 [Link](#)

This week, I had the opportunity to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu while he was in Washington addressing a joint session of Congress. Israel is a critical ally and a model of democratic government in an unstable region. Israelis live under a constant threat, and President Obama's call for the implementation of 1967 borders only puts Israel in an indefensible position, limiting their ability to properly defend their people. We cannot allow for that.

Our commitment to our friends around the world isn't just based on national security, but our economic security as well. There's no question we need to get people back to work and generate more economic opportunities in our local communities. On Wednesday, I spoke to the Latino Coalition about the need to break down barriers to job creation. One way to do that is to pursue an 'all of the above' energy approach that will help increase our domestic energy production and address high gas prices. Earlier this month, I launched the House Energy Action Team to pursue policies to do just that, and this week, we released our 'Fed Up With Prices At The Pump?' video to highlight our efforts. In June, I'll be making my way up to Ridgecrest to discuss with local business owners and community leaders ways in which the action we take in Washington can actually help folks back home.

This Memorial Day, I'll be at home in the district participating in several events over the long weekend to honor our members of the Armed Forces. On Sunday, I'll be at the Bakersfield National Cemetery at 9 a.m., and on Monday, at Union Cemetery at 9 a.m. and Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery at 11:30 a.m. I urge anyone who wants to join to come out and remember the men and women who have sacrificed so much so we can live in freedom and democracy. While we all enjoy the three-day weekend, let's also reflect on the meaning of the holiday. The liberty we enjoy every day is directly due to the selfless service of countless men and women who've given their time, and too often their lives, to protect and defend our great nation. This Memorial Day has added significance as we recognize the tremendous work of those in our military and intelligence community who brought justice to Osama Bin Laden.

Luckily, several constituents came to town this week. I was able to have lunch with Tommy and Barbara Lee and their family, as well as meet with Al and Barbara Sandrini and Cathleen Rutherford. Speaking of our local community, this Friday is the annual Mojave Intermediate Space Challenge. This great event encourages creativity and strengthens local students' interest in science and technology. In 2009, the House passed a resolution I introduced

recognizing this great event and I applaud the innovation of these young people.

I will continue to work to protect our nation's values and promote policies that will help grow our economy and jobs here in Kern County.