

ENDOWMENT FOR MIDDLE EAST TRUTH (EMET)

“RAYS OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS” DINNER

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FRANK GAFFNEY,
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY**

**INTRODUCTION:
SARAH STERN,
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, EMET**

**SPEAKERS:
REPRESENTATIVE BRAD SHERMAN (D-CA)

REPRESENTATIVE DOUG LAMBORN (R-CO)**

SENATOR SAM BROWNBACK (R-KS)

**AMIL IMANI,
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FRANK GAFFNEY: Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. Could I ask you to come to order, please? Shh, right. Good evening. My name is Frank Gaffney. I'm the president of the Center for Security Policy. And it is a high privilege – (applause) – thank you – it is a high privilege to be invited back to be the master of ceremonies for what is actually the best event of the year, Sarah Stern and EMET's annual dinner. And it is a great privilege to welcome all of you to that dinner. (Applause.)

Now, it turns out that there are those who would like this dinner not to have happened, and we may find out more about that later. But for the moment, thank god, it has happened and that we seem to have accommodated most, if not all, of those who wanted to be here. And that is another blessing.

My job is simply to make the trains run on time, so I'm going to spare you much in the way of my own views on the importance of truth at this moment, except to say that it has never been more needed than it is now. (Applause.) It has arguably never been in shorter supply than it is now. (Applause.) And all of these things converge to make the importance of the organization that is bringing us this dinner, and whom we are here to support, more needed than ever, now.

So let me present to you the woman who has made EMET a force to reckon with, a woman who is, needless to say, the driving force behind all that we believe in at the moment, particularly with respect to the Middle East and Israel, and who I'm very proud to call a dear and cherished friend, Sarah Stern. (Applause.)

SARAH STERN: Thank you so much. I look at this room, look at all of you who have made this possible. I can't thank you enough. As you know, my name is Sarah Stern. I am the founder and president of EMET. It is my profound pleasure to welcome you here tonight to our fourth annual "Rays of Light in the Darkness" dinner.

I often ask myself, what provokes a person to speak the truth, even when he knows those very words will carry a death sentence on his back, and cut himself off from everything he's always known – his family, his friends, his kinship group, his life – forcing him to run and be in hiding for the rest of his life?

From where does one summon up the courage to defend a tiny, unpopular country without much natural oil reserves or much natural wealth to speak of, aside from a certain sense of intellectual gustiness and drive, a nation that is trying its very best to survive and yet, managing to thrive in a very tough neighborhood?

Where does one summon up the courage to speak out against the total wave of opprobrium that, that nation, Israel, is constantly being subjected to within the polite corridors of Western Europe and academia and in the international court of public opinion, such as the United

Nations, where people employ standards that they would never, ever use to employ towards their own nation?

And from where does the amazing leadership come when the threats become more than just verbal, but are to his sheer physical existence, and everyone else seems to be either just looking away or finding sophisticated euphemisms for just stalling for time? I do not know where this courage comes from, but I do know this: When I look at the Middle East, I see a place where the latest theater has been the waterways, and the backdrop has been on unwritten script of cries of hatred, jihad and death, all the while being costumed in humanitarian clothing. And the treasured booty that's being pirated is international sympathy.

I see a place where the culture of hatred of the Jew, death and martyrdom is far too rampant. We see this culture in the textbooks that the children learned from the UNWRA-controlled schools. UNWRA, which was supposed to have been a temporary solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees in 1948, has become a part of the problem, not a part of the solution. And its schoolbooks are replete with hatred and incitement to hate and to kill. And they teach their children that, one day, their grandfathers' orchards and vineyards in Haifa will be theirs.

We see it in the Arabic press, on our television screens and in sermons from the mosques. And because of the advent of satellite television, this hatred has metastasized and it has found a place in far too many hearts of the youth in what was once a more moderate part of the Arab and Muslim world. I see a place where young women who have been raped in Saudi Arabia are murdered by their own family in honor killings and religious and political minorities are subjugated, tortured, imprisoned and murdered.

I see what was once the prospect of a beautiful, free, independent Lebanon of the Cedars Revolution becoming more and more remote under the suppressing and suffocating boot of Damascus. And I see a beautiful, Green, freedom-loving, democratic movement in Iran being crushed under the same repulsive boot of massive repression from a threatened, insecure regime that killed that beautiful woman, Neda, approximately one year ago today. And they have continued to suppress and execute freedom-loving intellectuals, dissidents and homosexuals.

And no one, not even our own government, seems to be coming to their aid. I see an Iran that is governed by the fanatic mullahs of Qom, which has an eschatological, apocalyptic version of Islam. I see a leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who feels that he will speed up the coming of the 12th imam by wiping Israel off the map. And with each passing day, he comes closer and closer to realizing his dream, while we, in the West, seem to be buying them time by debating which sanctions we shall employ.

I see an Iran that should be tried in an international tribunal for the crime that it is already committing right now countless times – for the crime of incitement to commit genocide, prohibited against the United Nations Genocide Convention of 1948. But instead, our institutions of universal jurisdiction, such as the U.N., are focusing all their energies on trying one democracy in the Middle East, and trying it for the crime of trying to prevent a corridor on the seas to be opened to weapons of terror and death that will be aimed against its people.

And I know that when Israel, “the Minor Satan,” is at risk, America, “the Great Satan,” is also at risk, and cannot be far behind. Because our two nations are bound by the same Western values of liberty, which the Islamists resent and despise. I see a rising tide of radical Islamist terrorist groups of Hamas and Hezbollah, and I know that their puppet-master is in Tehran. I see Iran emerging as a clear and present danger to the stability of the entire free, Western world as we know it.

I see it flexing its muscles daily for Islamic hegemony and I know that the gymnasium that they’re using to flex its muscles right now is in southern Lebanon with Hezbollah and in the Israeli-Palestinian territories with Hamas, where they are receiving their orders directly from Tehran. I see Hamas borrowing a page from Hezbollah, and beginning to dig tunnels into Israel just as Hezbollah does from southern Lebanon into northern Israel. And I see Syria transferring an arsenal of thousands upon thousands of SCUD ballistic missiles with a 450-kilometer range that are capable of striking any city within Israel.

I see a Gaza that had been given an opportunity in 2005 to be a free and economically vibrant, independent Palestinian state, but squandered that opportunity when the people freely went to the polls in 2006 and democratically selected the terrorist group Hamas to run it. I see how the gift that the Israelis gave to Gaza by the withdrawal was reciprocated by the raining down of over 10,000 Qassam rocket missiles on the Israeli border town of Sderot in southern Israel, which Israel is trying to prevent from happening again today by imposing its naval blockade, which, by the way, according to the United Nations Charter, in Article 51, is every nation’s primary responsibility to do; to protect the lives of its citizens.

And by the way, there is no siege of Gaza. There have been thousands of tons of humanitarian aid that is being inspected in the port of Ashdod and transported, through the proper channels of the U.N. and International Red Cross. There is a total blockade, however, of one person in Gaza, and his name is Gilad Shalit. I see demands coming out of the international community, and even from elements of our own government, that now, it is time to accept the Saudi peace plan, which now means a right of return of millions of Palestinian refugees.

It also means going back to the pre-1967 borders, which would make Israel exactly 9 miles wide at its narrowest waist. And that would mean that any Qassam rocket, missile, could reach Ben Gurion Airport. Just imagine what would happen if a Qassam rocket missile reached Ben Gurion Airport. Israel would be cut off to all air transit, and totally isolated.

I see a nuclear arms race that is rapidly being built up in the Middle East, and I see their weapons are becoming increasingly more sophisticated, more light and more portable and lethal. While these nations easily sign a Nonproliferation Treaty that is not worth the piece of paper it’s written on, Israel, who values the promises it makes and knows that the best defense is always a good offense, and sometimes, the best secret is a poorly kept secret is once again singled out for opprobrium.

And I even see people here, within our own government, who harbor the delusion that there are elements of Hamas and Hezbollah that are good and that we should start negotiating

with them. I'd also like to say a word about Turkey. We're all profoundly disappointed in Turkey's recent behavior under the government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but there are still wonderful, secular, democracy-loving elements within Turkey, and we should not give up on them. (Applause.) I know that the final page is not written, and the final chapter is not closed, when it comes to Turkey. It's a fluid and dynamic situation, so fasten your seatbelts. There are some wonderful people there who are still followers of the Ataturk Revolution of the 1920s. So let's please try and cultivate them.

I see Islamist groups establishing and rooting themselves around the great capitals of the West. These are people who harbor the belief that wherever a Muslim sets his foot onto will eventually become part of a holy Islamic caliphate. And there are some Islamists, even here within the United States, who would like to establish Sharia law and to substitute it for the Constitution. And that means that if someone who's exercised his freedom his religion and has renounced Islam, they are liable to receive the death penalty under Sharia law, even here within these great United States.

I see a world, now, that is nothing short of Kafka-esque. It is, as my good friend, Ginger Pinchot likes to say, it is an upside-down world. It is a very dark picture, indeed, but then I look around this wonderful room and I see some amazing people, who each, in his own way, represent the very best of what humanity has to offer. I see people here who have risked everything – everything – to tell the truth. And each of you, I want to thank, individually.

Senator Sam Brownback. (Applause.) Thank you so much. Congressman Brad Sherman. (Applause.) Representative Doug Lamborn. (Applause.) And I especially want to thank our two wonderful Muslim and Arab dissident friends here tonight – excuse me? Oh, one's Persian. I'm sorry. (Laughter.)

Amil Imani and Mosab Hassan Yousef. (Applause.) And these words – Amil and Mosab, you have shown us the very best of what it takes to be a human being. You have transcended the accident of your birth and you've penetrated through to the human core of all of us, and I want to thank you for all of that from the bottom of my heart. (Applause.) Thank you very much.

MR. GAFFNEY: There was a note.

MS. STERN: Yes, before I – there are a bunch of wonderful human beings in this room. Talk about the best that humanity has to offer. Congressman Trent Franks (applause). Congressman Mike Sodrel, and his wonderful wife, Petra (sp). (Applause.)

Some former honorees: Farid Ghadry – (applause) – a wonderful Syrian dissident and James Woolsey, one of my dearest, most wonderful friends. (Applause.) Thank you all for being here. You are all, to me, the VIPs. You are all very important people. Oh, Congressman Bill Cassidy, thank you so much. (Applause.) Frank?

MR. GAFFNEY: Well done, Sarah, as always. Thank you, once again, to the members of Congress and our other distinguished guests, especially our previous recipients of the award.

As Sarah says, it's part of a community and it is great to see it growing, both in numbers and in terms of, I think, its formidable beliefs. And as I said earlier, they have never been more needed than now.

In the interest of making the trains run on time, I'm going to do my level best to ask each of our speakers to confine themselves to about five minutes, if they will. They won't, they won't. (Laughter.) But we'll try, and as a result, we will hopefully get through this program with dispatch. But I think you will find each and every one of these individuals to be worth the wait, and certainly, most estimable people.

We're going to start with what I have considered to be, as an old "Scoop" Jackson Democrat myself, something of an endangered species these days, which is what passes, these days, for a "Scoop" Jackson Democrat. His name is Brad Sherman. He represents Sherman Oaks, California, something he likes to point out. (Applause.) He brings to the job – specifically, the job of the chairman of the terrorism, nonproliferation and trade subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives a particularly valuable skill set.

You might wonder, how does trade get tucked into these other two, very national-security-related issues. Well, it's because he particularly appreciates how important trade and commerce are to the national security, and in particular, to the fight against terrorism and proliferation.

And specifically, he has been a driving force in the House behind legislation aimed at trying to deny a country that Sarah properly focused all of our attention on, namely, Iran, the benefits of trade that are enabling so much of the dangerous behavior in both the terrorism and the proliferation areas that threaten us all. So Congressman Brad Sherman, I invite you to come forward and bring your skills as an attorney and a CPA to bear on the cause of freedom. (Applause.)

REP. BRAD SHERMAN (D-CA): Hello, I'm Brad Sherman from California's best-named city, Sherman Oaks. (Laughter.) Just because Frank stole my line doesn't mean I'm going to give it up. (Laughter.) It is an honor to be here with all of you, but especially with two individuals who risk their lives every day, Amil Imani and especially Mosab Yousef. (Applause.)

And let me say there would be no more peculiar application of American law than to exclude Mosab on the theory that he participated in Hamas activities. (Applause.) And the law and bureaucracy of this country does not always act in a logical manner, but by god, we're going to make sure that we don't exclude this man on some technicality. (Cheers, applause.)

Six years ago, Sarah Stern brought to me an interesting idea – the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act, which I introduced in 2004, which became law about two years ago, and which is already funding joint research projects between Israeli and American institutions designed to wean the world from its addiction on petroleum. Because there are no two countries with a greater incentive or a greater capacity to deal with a problem that only the greatest rabbis can understand, and that is why Hashem put the oil in all the wrong places. (Laughter.)

Now, this year, we're fighting to get this act funded at \$10 million. We received – a couple-dozen, or so, members of Congress have joined me in that effort. And I see a few members here who will want to join me in talking to the energy and water subcommittee, perhaps even tomorrow.

Now, this is important not only for the technological discovery, but also, even the greatest friends of Israel, when they close their eyes and they think of Israel, they think of Cyrus (ph). When you close your eyes and think of Israel, think of science. We have got to change the image of Israel as a perhaps-deserving object of American protection or concern and start thinking of Israel as a place where the science that will make American lives better is being born. (Applause.)

And furthermore, Uzi Landau, the relevant Israeli minister, has pledged to me that Israel will match America dollar for dollar, so for every dollar we invest, we get two dollars' worth of research. Some of you are familiar with the 1996 antiterrorism act, which makes it illegal for any U.S. person to provide any material assistance to any terrorist organization. I have brought that act to the attention of the attorney general and suggested that he begin an immediate investigation of every American person on that flotilla. (Applause.)

For the clear and sole purpose of that flotilla was to provide material assistance to Hamas. And I've studied the statute: There is no exception that says, well, if you've read Gandhi and you have a pure heart, you can violate the law. There is nothing there that says, well, if it's only cement or only this or only that, you can violate the law. And the Supreme Court agreed with me just two days ago. (Applause.)

And for those who doubt the legality of Israel's efforts at sea, remember that it was America that blockaded Cuba and Germany and Japan, and not only state actors, but we also blockaded the Confederate States of America. And whether it is World War I or World War II or the Civil War, I think the outcome might well have been different if America had not used its naval power to deny materiel to its adversary.

And Israel has no lesser responsibility to its citizens than America had to its citizens to provide for their defense. (Applause.) Now, for more than a dozen years, I've been fighting for sanctions against Iran. And today, we signed the conference report, and this week or very early next week, we will pass legislation, which will be just about everything we should have done in 1999.

We are doing a great job; we're just 10 years, 11 years slow. But forgive me if I at least celebrate that we've come this far, because now, for three administrations, we have seen administration after administration both violate the Iran Sanctions Act, which has been on the books since the mid-'90s for the purpose of protecting Tehran's business partners, and we've seen every administration – and the last administration was successful at this for eight painful years, for myself – preventing Congress from adopting any new sanctions against Iran of any significance.

I can discuss with you why it is that the executive branch, under administrations that people think are diametrically different has taken relatively similar positions, but it is time for us to say, you ought to choose: Do you want to do business with Iran, or do you want to do business with America? So let me describe a little bit about what we have accomplished. We have added the refined petroleum sanctions to sanction those companies that provide refined petroleum or refinery equipment or relevant insurance or transportation because, as many of you know, Iran is dependent for about 40 percent of its refined gasoline on imports.

We have provided sanctions on those who do business with the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps. We have finally liberated mutual funds and trust funds, and especially state and local pension plans, to divest from those companies that are doing business in Iran without a fear of a frivolous lawsuit – a provision that was opposed by the last administration for eight years. The only time they were in favor of frivolous lawsuits was when it helped companies invest in Iran.

Just in case you haven't noticed, I've been extremely frustrated with the last three administrations. It's a bipartisan thing with me. (Laughter.) I do have legislation pending – see some potential co-sponsors here – to say that those who divest from companies doing business in Iran and reinvest in other, good companies, do not face a tax, but rather, get a carryover basis, because divesting from terrorism should not be a taxable event. (Applause.)

We are providing sanctions for those, like Nokia and Siemens, which gave the Iranian government the power to spy on its own citizens and to interrupt their use of the Internet. We have banned all imports to the United States – I remember going down to the floor when Madeleine Albright opened up our markets, not to oil, but only to stuff we don't need and they couldn't sell elsewhere, and said, there's blood in the caviar. Well, starting next week, you'll just have to make do with Russian caviar. (Applause.)

Now, most important, we – many of these sanctions require the State Department to take action, which, under three administrations they've refused to do. We have laws on the books since the mid-'90s that says, a foreign oil company invests in the Iranian oil sector, they're supposed to be subject to sanctions, and three administrations have told me that on the days those investments are announced, their copy of the Wall Street Journal never arrived!

So we do have sanctions here that require action by the State Department to enforce, but we have one that isn't. And that is a requirement that, before you bid on a U.S. government contract, the executives of the company have to certify on behalf of their own company and all of its international affiliates that they are not engaging in providing Iran with investments in its energy sector. And that doesn't require State Department enforcement. That means you lose the contract unless you stop doing that kind of business with Iran, or unless you've got an executive who's willing to incur criminal penalties.

I think a lot of companies will decide that they'd rather do business with the U.S. government than the Iranian government. Now, I'm going to just preach to the choir a little bit to remind you, because you're going to have to explain to your friends why this is so important. Iran is the number one security threat to both Israel and the United States. If Iran develops

nuclear weapons, that is an immediate Middle East arms race. It means Iran, already the number one state sponsor of terrorism, can practice terrorism with impunity.

It means that every time one of their gunboats challenges our fleet in the Persian Gulf, we go eyeball-to-eyeball with a hostile nuclear power. And for those who tell you that the Cuban Missile Crisis turned out all right so deterrence must work, reflect on the fact that Khrushchev was considerably saner than Ahmadinejad. And how many Cuban Missile Crises do you want to survive? And how many of them will we survive without the actual use of nuclear weapons?

But even all that, if, inshallah, the people of Iran rise up and are about to overthrow this government, do you really think they'll pull a Gorbachev, shrug their shoulders and walk off the world stage? Or will they decide to go out with a bang? And will that bang be in the Great Satan or the Little Satan? And if you think missile crisis and missile defense will keep you and your neighbor safe, reflect on the fact that it is much easier to smuggle a nuclear weapon than to develop an ICBM, and it provides a terrorist state with plausible deniability. So I think if we hit – if we do get hit with an Iranian nuclear weapon, it will be ground freight, not air freight.

So we have got to mobilize the American people to do far more, because the sanctions, as big step as it is – is not enough to prevent Iran from moving forward with its nuclear program. Now, for those of you who say sanctions can't possibly work, imagine if we had a simple rule of law that said no country could do business with the United States if any of their companies are doing business with Iran. That kind of sanction – that's more extreme, even, than I'm proposing right now – would work.

You need truly bone-crushing and immediate sanctions, or you put Israel in a position where it has to take military action, which could very well take the form not of a few days of strikes, but of what I call "sanctions from the air," an effort to cripple the Iranian economy and oil exports. And if that happens, we're going to have to explain to America, this is not Jerusalem's fault; it is the fault of America going to sleep for a dozen years while we knew Iran was developing nuclear weapons. (Applause.)

So be prepared to advocate for Israel, no matter what happens. And let us hope that we don't have to find out what it's like to have Cuban Missile Crisis after Cuban Missile Crisis with a hostile, nuclear state that is already the number one state sponsor of terrorism. Look forward to working – oh, one last thing. I know that this brief speech – (laughter) – can't possibly tell you all the things I'm up to. Please just send me an e-mail at congressmanbradsherman@gmail.com. And I'll put you on the list, I'll send you the long version of this speech. And more importantly, I'll send you supplements as they arrive. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

MR. GAFFNEY: Wonderful.

REP. SHERMAN: Wow! There's got to be a camera somewhere. There's a camera.

MR. GAFFNEY: Congressman Sherman, thank you – (applause) – not only for being with us, but for sharing that great news about the conference report being signed, and hopefully, swiftly enacted into law.

I, for one, appreciate enormously what the congressman has been doing to try to make sure the laws of the land are enforced and strengthened in the kinds of ways that he's talked about. So let us pray that it is not too late. Okay – calls coming in from the sidelines, here. (Laughter.) In the interest of bipartisanship within the House of Representatives, I'm going to ask our next speaker to come from the Republican side of the aisle. (Laughter.)

He is a congressman from Colorado, a member of the House Armed Services Committee; I'm very pleased to say the chairman of a new caucus of the House – he's also a member of the Israel Caucus – but a new and, I think, very important caucus that appreciates Israel and is working on its behalf, as well as on behalf of the United States, namely, the Sovereignty Caucus. His name is Congressman Doug Lamborn. Please welcome him. (Applause.)

REP. DOUG LAMBORN (R-CO): Thank you, Frank. Boy, it's so good to be here. There's some wonderful friends here. And it's an honor, first of all, to be awarded this award tonight. I really appreciate that. It's an honor to be with my respected colleagues, Senator Brownback, Representative Sherman and other members who are here today.

And it's an honor to be with Mr. Mosab Yousef. I've read your book, "The Son of Hamas." I'm going to try to get you to sign it before you leave. (Laughter.) But I'm really looking forward to your remarks and I appreciate your courage and bravery. (Applause.) As a matter of fact, I am circulating a letter – we already have signatures today. Trent Franks, for instance, is on it – representative from Arizona – saying to Janet Napolitano that you be fair when you do this hearing with Mr. Yousef. You take all the facts into account. And we're circulating that letter right now. (Applause.)

Also, I want to thank EMET and everyone who works here – Sarah, you do a wonderful job – and everyone who supports this wonderful organization. (Applause.) Now, let me answer a question that I've heard many times asked, myself: Why do people in the evangelical community here in the U.S. support Israel? And let me try to answer that for you. There's at least three reasons.

First of all, we believe that Israel is a key, democratic ally of the U.S. in a dangerous and strategic region, the Middle East. The technology that we share and work on together – there's just so many things. We could spend all night talking about those strategic reasons. Number two, we believe that countries that are loyal to the U.S. should be rewarded, a novel concept, right? You should reward your friends and punish your enemies, not the other way around. (Cheers, applause.)

When you reward your enemies, they think it's weakness; you don't gain anything. And when you punish your friends, you push them away. So we're worse off than before. But also, number three, we believe that, within the Judeo-Christian belief, that supporting Israel is a religious duty that, as believers, individually, we should support Israel as part of our individual faith, and collectively, as a nation with a religious history, we have a duty to support Israel. (Applause.)

Now, in my own life, my devotion to Israel has increased with each of the three trips that I've taken there. I've had the privilege, for instance, of walking through the mountain fortress of Masada. And if you haven't ever done that, you need to do that. Almost 2,000 years ago – and by the way, at that time, Jews had already been in the land, mostly ruling, for over 1,000 years already – but the last resistance held out against the might of the Roman Empire.

And in the year 73, I believe it was, that resistance failed, and then for 19 centuries, Jews were dispersed around the world. And yet, amazingly, the Jewish people kept their culture, their language, and most importantly of all, their faith in God. (Applause.) But also, in my trips to Israel, I've had the privilege of visiting Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. And one of the most moving things there, of many moving things, is the tribute to the resistance fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto.

And in 1943, for a month, a relative handful of brave resistance fighters, barely armed, fought off the might of the German regime, the Third Reich. They eventually gave their lives, for the most part, but I see that as a revival of the resistance that had ended at Masada, laid dormant for 19 centuries, and revived again during World War II. And five years later, the nation of Israel was born.

So the spirit of resistance was revived at that time. When you look at how the Jews returned to Israel after so many years, I believe that anyone who opposes Israel is opposing history and providence. (Applause.) I'm going to finish up with a story about my son, Mark. My wife and I have five children. In fact, Jeannie (sp) is here with me tonight. Jeannie, could you stand up? (Applause.)

We have five wonderful children and our youngest just finished his year at Colorado State University as a resident assistant – an R.A. And at 19, he's a role model for the 18-year-old freshman – (chuckles) – which is kind of an interesting thought to think about. But we dropped in to visit with him one day, and there, on the wall of his dorm room, unbeknownst to us, he had an Israeli flag put up – a big, Israeli flag. We didn't even know where he got his hands on that. (Applause.)

But I took two lessons from that. One is that children learn from their parents, and that children are the future – they are the next generation, and that is where, I think, part of the key is going to be found to peace in the Middle East. And I'm talking about people of all faiths. So thank you for letting me be here today. It's truly an honor. And it's great to be with all the friends and supporters of the Endowment for Middle East Truth. And I look forward to what the senator has to say, and most of all, I look forward to Mr. Yousef and what he has to say. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

MR. GAFFNEY: May I just say that, in the hubbub of getting everybody into the room, we've overlooked at least one of the previous honorees who is with us tonight, and I'd ask you to join me in thanking Cal Thomas for joining us. (Applause.) A truly great American. Have we overlooked any other previous honorees? Speak now or forever hold your peace. No? Okay, good. Having worked our way through bipartisanship in the House, let's get a little bicameralism going.

We have a very patient United States senator from the great state of Kansas – a man who has shown, in much the same way as Congressman Lamborn, the commitment of an evangelical Christian to the state of Israel; a man who has brought great moral clarity to so many of the issues of our day, most especially the necessity of helping the people of Iran liberate themselves from a tyrannical regime that terrorizes and undermines its neighbors and threatens the rest of us. Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas. (Applause.)

SENATOR SAM BROWNBACK (R-KS): Thank you. Thanks, Frank, and thanks, Sarah. And thank you guys all for being here and – it's just – it's wonderful to be here with you. And it's wonderful to be able to join in the fight with you.

This is my last year in the Senate. And the nice thing about leaving the Senate – it's a bit like going to your own funeral. You get to talk to people about your long goodbye and you get to hear what they have to say. And I appreciate the chance to be able to work – and then, to also, hopefully, pass on a thought or two about what we need to do, moving on forward.

We're in a horrific, big fight. We really are. Iran gets their weapon. Jordan is trying to get nuclear weaponry – or “nuclear technology.” That's kind of the gateway start. And then are we going to the Saudis? And then where? And then where? And then where? It's just an expansion that takes place. And we've got to confront this and we have to deal with it. And we need to deal with it earlier, rather than later. And the sooner you deal with it, the less, probably, problems you have and the more opportunities you have to deal with it successfully, rather than later on down the road.

And I look at this group and I think this is a group that can speak truth into this situation right now. Rather than saying, okay, let's put it off, yes, okay, maybe they're not really meaning us any harm in Iran. It seems like we've said that about other enemies that we've faced in times gone by as well. And I just would say that now is the time for us to speak truth. And that was something that Frank said at the very outset, that we need to speak truth, and that's something that's in short supply here in this country and in this town.

And I would just tell you one quick story about this, and then I'll be off. And so maybe I'll be the shortest of the congressional speakers, which would be a real oddity, I recognize, for us to do this. You remember the story in Daniel about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being thrown into the furnace, right? You all know that story. Shadrach, Meshach – or as we used to say, Shadrach, Meshach and To-bed-you-go, as we're telling the story at night – (laughter) – they're getting thrown into the furnace because they won't bend down and they won't bow to Nebuchadnezzar, the king.

They're saying, we will not bow down. We will not worship somebody other than god himself. And they say, okay, we're going to throw you in the furnace. They say, that's fine. We must stand for truth. We cannot go against what god says. And they were protected for standing for truth. They were protected for standing for truth. And I find that truth is powerful if spoken. We cannot deny standing up and speaking. We need to speak the truth. We need to stand up and

say the truth. And once the truth is spoken, it carries weight with it and it creates. Spoken truth creates.

And that's what I would just urge this group and the people here to constantly do, which is to stand up and to speak truth. And spoken truth creates. And that's what we've got to do. (Applause.) And without speaking the truth, it's like we stand in the shadows and are unheard, and that people can't know what the truth is. So just really, really would urge this group, as you move on forward, to constantly speak the truth and that spoken truth will create. It always has throughout history; it does now; and it will in the future. It's been a great pleasure to work with you. God bless you all. Thank you. (Applause.)

MR. GAFFNEY: As they say in the Senate, I'd like to thank the senator for yielding back the balance of his time. (Laughter.) Thank you, Senator, for that, among many, many other things. You will be sorely missed, needless to say, in the United States Senate. (Applause.) It is my great pleasure, now, to introduce a Persian Muslim, let the record show, who is a member of what I believe to be the single most endangered species in America, a former Muslim.

And in fact, Amil Imani has become a leading force in a very important new movement made up of former Muslims. Indeed, they call themselves Former Muslims United – that is giving expression to their belief that just because they have elected to leave Sharia and its dictates, they are still entitled to live. And most especially, they are entitled to live free in the United States of America. This is a cause all of us believe in. (Applause.)

Amil Imani does a great deal through his writings, through his activism, through his courageous example, to lead the way for others who, like him, are seeking freedom – freedom from Sharia, most especially. And it is a great privilege to share with you him tonight on this occasion – Amil Imani. Welcome. (Applause.)

AMIL IMANI: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. How do you say thank you, when you really mean “I love you?” (Laughter.) I really thank you very much, Sarah, the EMET organization, directors who have selected me to be in this wonderful event. I am honored. I am truly honored to be in this facility with all of you. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, you know I was born in Tehran, Iran – been here 30, 33 years in the United States of America. My country is going through hell, as you know. The Green Movement was shut down. Last year, we were this close to overthrow the Ahmadinejad's government and Ali Khamenei, but unfortunately, the administration came too little, too late. It is the same scenario what happened in Jimmy Carter, who installed Ayatollah Khomeini in my country. I am sorry to say that history has been repeating itself.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am the voice of hundreds of thousands of Iran's best children, many of the very children who have been imprisoned, brutally tortured, shamelessly raped, viciously slaughtered by Allah's beasts on this planet. Now, tonight is not a night that I'm going to talk about Iran. Tonight is EMET's night. “Emet,” in Hebrew, means “truth.” What a beautiful name – truth. We all love that name, truth. But lately, we're afraid to say the truth

because of political correctness. We're afraid to say it. The fear of telling the truth is devouring, eroding, America.

And I have been writing all these years. I have been doing everything I can, everything in my power. I have been only one person. But I could not show my face until two months ago, because I was born in Iran and my dad went to Iran and I was afraid they would assassinate him and kill me. He was 84 years old. But until two months ago, when he passed away, may God bless his soul, and then I decided to come forward and show my face to the world.

So you have to put yourself in my shoes, what it means to be an apostate; what it means, with the threat that we go through on a daily basis; what it means to move from place to place, change your phone numbers, not use your Social Security number, go from house to house. You cannot have electricity under your name because they will come and kill you. You have to understand apostasy in order to understand what a former Muslim – even though I was not a practicing Muslim in Iran – which, Persians are totally different than the rest of the Muslim world.

We never practiced, but since we have talked about Islam, they consider ourselves, who are against Islam, as an apostate.

The Bible says, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." Arthur Schopenhauer says, every truth passes through three stages before it's recognized. In the first, it is ridiculed. In the second, it is opposed. In the third, it is regarded as self-evident.

Since we're on the subject of truth, please allow me a couple short paragraphs of the significance of the word truth in ancient Iran. I'm from Iran, obviously. I would like to talk about my country a little bit more. Then I will briefly speak about the Former Muslims United organization, which I am a cofounder of that organization. We're trying to do everything we can to help the apostates – the people who leave this – I hate to call it religion – this cult of fear, terror, intimidation – to help those people who leave it. We want to be able to help them.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are not against Muslims. We are against a religion of hate, intolerance, violence. That's what we're doing. We're trying to say that anybody who leaves it, at least, we've got together. Finally, we've found each other – people such as Wafa Sultan, which I'm sure all of you know that – Nonie Darwish, the courageous woman from Egypt, Dr. Ali Sina, and the rest – the list goes on. We're trying to do that. This is the organization just formed lately, and it's growing. Unfortunately, with any organization, the funding has always been the problem. So until we get to that point, we'll just have to do individually what we can.

Herodotus, the Greek historian – I'm sure all of you heard of the name Herodotus – who was a contemporary of the great king, Darius, of ancient Iran – wrote in his remarkable history that the Persians esteemed the truth above all things. He went on to say, speaking with great respect, that the Persians hold it unlawful to speak of anything which it is unlawful to do. And according to their thinking, the most disgraceful thing in the world is to tell a lie.

This veneration of the truth among ancient Iranians were indeed their most noteworthy features and throughout the history of the land, there was not a single foreigner who came to visit or to live among them who wasn't strikingly impressed by the love and respect of truth in that country. Through the passage of centuries, the works of Greeks, Chinese, Indians and the Jewish culture, this love and respect for the truth is mentioned endless times as perhaps the markable traits of all Iranians, except Ahmadinejad at this time. He does not tell the truth.

There about 1500 such names contained in the tablets they found in the Old Persian language. Names not of kings or princes, nor priests or judges; simply the names of minor officials and clerks, who oversaw the storehouses. Remarkably – I'm not going to go through the whole thing, just briefly tell you how important it is – 75 of these names contain the word "truth." We encounter the man called protector of truth.

Some of you that understand Hebrew and the association with Persians has come to the Hebrew language and also the Old Persian language, Pahlavi. I'm sure some of you are familiar with that. It's called Arta Pana (ph), "Lover of the Truth." Arta Koma (ph), "Truth-Minded." Possessor – "Explainer of the Truth" – Arta Fana (ph). These are some of the names that are really associated with truth.

The Persian Empire lasted before the invasion of the Arabs and then the imposition of a religion that we did not want in Iran in the 7th century. The Persian Empire lasted 1500 years because we adhered to the truth. So the word truth is so important. And we were, back then, the superpower at the time that the United States is right now.

And then, as I see it – I've been here 30 years in this country – I see that we are sliding. And I wrote an article that compared the Persian Empire to an American – greatest democracy, greatest country – of course, we are a republic but also we are a representative democracy. We are losing it because we are not appreciating telling the truth. The political correctness, again, is our enemy. And so on and so forth.

Truth is not always welcome and can often greatly be disturbing. But truth is the best weapon against evil and falsehood. When I point out to the horrific teachings of the Quran, I don't make it up. I state verses of Islam's holy book; verses that exhort the radical Muslim to carry out all kinds of evil deeds against non-Muslims.

This book of our law is the license to kill. They have license to kill me, him, anybody who has left Islam. And we don't have any protection even though Constitution is protecting us, this First Amendment of religious right, but we don't have anybody here to protect us. They can come and kill me at any time, any reason they want because it's – the book was written, and it says 'you're Muslim? Well then kill the infidels.' Who are the infidels or apostates; I'm the apostate; the infidels are all of us.

When I point out that the Muhammad set terrible example of his followers by his own deeds, I cite from their own books. Now, shortly, I'm going to say two verses of Quran. And just 8:12 – "I shall terrorize the infidels." What does that tell you? I'm not going to read the

whole thing. “I shall terrorize the infidels.” That doesn’t mean I’m going to kiss the infidels, does it? No.

Until they purge that from those books, we’re going to have to have this problem, in this country. No matter how you’re going to try and change it, no matter how politically correct you are going to be, these phrases are staying in Quran. Somebody has to come forward and reform that. Allah made the Jews leave their homes by terrorizing them so that you killed some and made some captive. And he made you inherit their lands, their homes and their wealth. He gave you a country you had not traversed before. This is Allah, speaking in the Quran.

My friends, truth places a dominant role in the life of a man. It is through the quest for truth and good understanding arises in the spirit of man and understanding that teaches him to further that principle of God in good thoughts, good words and good deeds, which is the symbol of the Zoroastrians which is a very old concept, 4000 years ago.

Many of you want to know why I left Islam. I have a very simple answer to that. I found the truth. The truth set me free. (Applause.) Truth should never be sacrificed at the altar of any god. I firmly believe that the truthfulness is indeed the foundation of all virtues. If telling the truth about Islam is Islam-bashing, then mea culpa. Ladies and gentlemen, tolerating evil is not tolerance. It’s a crime. (Applause.)

There’s a little bit more but since we’re short of time, there’s the last thing I want to share with you and then I’ll be going back to my seat. I just finished a book named “President Obama Meets Ahmadinejad.” Since President Obama said numerous times before in the primary that he would really like to meet him unconditionally, and he has never met him yet, so I decided to put them together and see what they say. (Laughter.) So this book will come out in 10 days and I want you to read it because it’s so important even though it’s a fiction. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

MR. GAFFNEY: Well, speaking of books, our next honoree, also a former Muslim, is also the author of an important new book – a book that almost could seem like fiction. The story is so unbelievable, so compelling, so frightening, really, in what it reveals about not only the nature of our enemies but the dangers that a man exposed himself to, to try to help protect us from them.

In case you thought Mosab Hassan Yousef’s story might be other than true, we’re very pleased to have with us, in addition to him, a man who has heretofore only been known to many of us as “G.” He was his handler in the Mossad. He is a man who helped get him through the dangers and accomplished the great feats documented in his new book, “Son of Hamas.” Welcome both Mosab Hassan Yousef and, in turn, G. (Applause.)

MOSAB HASSAN YOUSEF: Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. First of all, let me ask – how did the security let a terrorist like me get into the – (laughter) – Senate building? I’m just kidding. (Laughter.)

I would love to thank Sarah Stern for this great opportunity and her great efforts to represent me and tell my story of pain to many people and now I have lots of support for the challenges that I have, especially recently. I am very honored and very grateful for EMET and it's a great privilege to be here tonight with you guys. Thank you so much for support. (Applause.)

God Almighty used the ignorant to confound the wise and the weak to confound the strong and the nothing to confound the everything. I am ignorant, weak and nothing and God is using me and I'm very honored to be used by God Almighty – (applause) – the god of love, against the god of hate.

Yes, they exist. They are there and I personally switched gods. I was very devoted to the god of hate. Why did I leave that religion? That belief – and trust me, most of the things that I say, they are politically incorrect. So I hope I don't offend anybody and I have my reasons to say what I have to say. It's a calling. It's a duty.

And I witnessed enough blood and enough sufferings of many victims of bad ideologies and fake gods that it gives me, I think, the authority and the power to keep going. And nobody is going to stop me. I don't care about politics. (Applause.) Thank you. So why did I leave? Why did I leave Islam? It's not easy to answer this question, but if I had an easy answer in my mind, I would say it's because the god of Islam doesn't like music. (Laughter.) Simple answer.

And he doesn't like Jews. He doesn't like infidels. Also, he doesn't like Muslims. The god of Islam is the biggest enemy of Muslims. I can prove it. He sentences them to death. He is enslaving them with shame, fear and guilt. Those are the weapons that the god of Islam uses against the nation of Islam. They are slaves. They have been enslaved. They have been lied to.

And to come out of that environment and come to the god of liberty, liberty of religion, liberty of all types of human weaknesses that everybody suffers everyday, to come from a country where it's constitution has absolute control – liberty has absolute control, to come to this great country of freedom and liberty – this is why America is a great country.

This is why I believe this nation is a great nation, not because of a strong economy, not because of strong currency or strong constitution, not only these – because of liberty – (applause) – because of the liberty that springs its roots from the teachings and the sacrifice of my God on the cross. I'm sorry – I'm not here to preach. I'm not a preacher and I know that we are short on time. But all the great credit goes to my God.

When I was affiliated with Hamas – at the same time I was affiliated with the Israeli Shin Bet. (Laughter.) Christian and a beginner Christian, I was reading the Bible and one of the verses – one of the many verses said give to whoever asks of you. So I was walking in West Jerusalem, the Jewish side of Jerusalem and homeless beggar was asking for me to give to him. And even that time, I said, this great teacher of the Bible is asking me to help everybody, no matter what, whoever asks me – he didn't say Jews or Christians, anybody.

It is unconditional love and unconditional giving. So I gave that man just pennies, but from that point, my life started to change forever. It's all about humanity. Our God came in the flesh because he's human, because he loves us – he loves everybody unconditionally. And unfortunately, the God of Islam is not this type of God. I think he is a terrorist because he mandates killing.

And by the way, when you talk about the Quran, there is a huge difference. There are, in the Bible, violent verses and I'm not saying that the Quran also has some violent verses. What I'm saying is – the Quran mandates killing. It's a way of worshipping. It's a way of worshipping by killing everybody who doesn't believe in Islam. And from Islam – as a name, by the way – when we hear "Islam," Islam means "submission." Islam doesn't mean "peace." "Salaam" means "peace." Islam means submission. Submit or the options are not good. (Laughter.)

It was our project – I know enough about it. I was devoted to that and either if it's in the United States or maybe somewhere from an island, thank god for technology if I have to be somewhere else, I will keep fighting the god of Islam because he's taken my family from me. I don't blame my family for disowning me today. I blame their god.

My people are fighting for liberation – the Palestinian people. And who's their greatest enemy? Israel. They want to destroy Israel so they can become liberated while they worship the God that is really their enemy everyday. They don't recognize that they're worshipping their biggest enemy everyday and they're looking for other enemies outside. What will happen if Israel just disappears from the map? What if there is no Israel anymore?

Will there be peace in the Middle East? Palestinians will kill each other, I guarantee you and it's already happened. I said this – by the way, before what happened in Gaza. I'm not saying that Palestinians don't have the right to be like any other nation. Those are my people. I know enough about their sufferings, and I cry for their pain.

But they need to take serious steps toward, first, to understand what liberty means, what freedom means. In order to fight for something, you need to understand what you're fighting for. You cannot fight for liberty while you don't understand what liberty means. You cannot achieve liberty while you're killing liberty everyday in your house, in your heart as individual. Those are their problems – (applause) – and that is their biggest enemies.

Unfortunately, maybe many people give up on us and I'm telling you – I'm not the only one. We have lots of heroes that work in the shadows. We don't take our permission from governments and we can do our duty without financial support, without anything. With the power of our God, in order to defeat this evil god, we cannot defeat him with any type of nuclear weapon, because unfortunately, because it's an idea. It's ideology.

And when we have ideological kind of problem, we need an ideological solution. We are going to seed doubts in the mind, in the heart of every Muslim, suicide bomber, terrorist, moderate, fundamentalist, fanatic, all of them. We're going to seed doubt in their minds about

their god. We are going to help them to understand their god exists only in their minds. He's an illogical god. He doesn't have morality. He doesn't have responsibility. He's a terrorist.

He exists here in America, not only in the Middle East and he's very dangerous. He exists in every mosque and in every society in America. We will keep fighting him. We are not going to stop. We're not going to give up. Yes, I am weak. I'm not saying that I'm the greatest thinker of the age, but I believe the next generations, maybe politicians, governments, many people may give up on us. But as I said, this is not going to stop us. We have technology. If we don't have the major media agencies, we still have other means and methods to reach people.

I'm sorry – I have a lot of things to say and I don't want to get you bored. I would love to introduce you to a real friend of mine – a great friend, a great brother that I think words cannot describe how much I feel toward him as a great family of mine, the only friend, if I can say – my only true friend, who has protected me. I have trusted him in very difficult situations, fighting terrorism for many years. He was always a man of his word.

Many times, I was in – in very difficult situations, hanging out with terrorists, and it would have been easy to just launch a missile but I was close to the area so they cancelled the entire operation because of his command. So my life would not be in danger. He's somebody that I trusted, when only God knew about my relationship with the Shin Bet during that time, the Israeli intelligence service.

And today, he has been waiting for a long time for the Israel Shin Bet to give him a permit to come and support me here in the United States. And unfortunately, because of bureaucracy, he couldn't get permission and now, he's revealing his identity and in front of cameras. He might face a problem when he goes back to Israel, just to confirm my relationship with the Shin Bet, this could mean 80 years in an Israeli prison. And he is taking that risk.

He has been there, calling me every other day, supporting me because he knows that I am in this war almost alone – or at least this is the way that I feel. It's a crazy war against everybody. Muslims have their reasons to hate me. Christians of the Middle East, even, have their reasons to hate me. Some media have tried to discredit what I am saying. Some Americans think that I'm doing this for the green card.

I have lots of problem, and lots of enemies here and still he's here in this dark moment of my life, to come and support me. He's here with us today and I would love to introduce him, Capt. Gonen Ben-Itzhak. Known in my book as "Capt. Loai," please welcome him. (Applause.)

MR. Gonen Ben-Itzhak: Thank you everybody, thank you. I want to tell you in a few words about our journey and about our friendship. You know, my father was a brigadier general, a retired brigadier general in the Israeli army. Mosab's father is a founder of Hamas in the West Bank. When I was born, I was supposed to be his enemy. He was supposed to be my enemy.

The only route that was supposed to be between us was some kind of collision. I became Shin Bet handler in the Shin Bet – the Israeli Shin Bet. Mosab was arrested and he became, afterwards, an Israeli agent. Coming from Hamas family, a royal Hamas family in the West

Bank, he was supposed to be a terrorist. And he's accused, today, of being a terrorist. So maybe I should clear that up first: Mosab is not a terrorist. (Applause.)

I've known him for more than 10 years. During the time he served – I shouldn't say served Israel, because he served humanity. He prevented killing. He prevented violence. He never asked, is this innocent victim is going to be Palestinian, Jew, American, German? He just knew that he needed to prevent violence and killing and he risked his life everyday in order to prevent it.

And now, he's facing this trial, maybe they want to deport him because he was born in the wrong place, in the wrong time and I came – I don't mind the risks because – in my mind I needed to come to the courthouse in San Diego to tell the judge the truth. And we are talking today about truth. And the truth is, Mosab always prevented killing.

He's a really humble man. He had his moral choice and his moral choice was to say the truth and you know, when you read "Son of Hamas," you read the truth – not all the truth, by the way, because he preferred not to reveal secrets. So he didn't tell everything. He told only a small portion of things that he did. Things that I cannot reveal right now.

And what I want to tell you, Mosab, that I will be with you in this trial, you know. I will confess – I will say the truth. I want to thank everybody here. I want to thank you, Sarah, for your support and everybody's support. We need it. He needs it. And we'll be together and God bless you all. God bless you, Mosab. God bless Israel and God bless America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

MR. GAFFNEY: Well, that's pretty amazing, huh? News flash – I am told by Congressman Brad Sherman, who went back to his office after leaving us – oh, is he still here? Brad, you're still here. I'm sorry, you got a text message or something coming in that the legislation he spoke of, the conference report on the Iran Sanctions Act will be on the floor of the House tomorrow. So weigh in! (Applause.)

Under most circumstances, what you've just been exposed to would be a very hard act to follow. But we do have an act to follow it and it's no act. It is an experience, I think, is the only way to describe it. Alan Keyes is one of my personal heroes. And I am thrilled that he has been able to join us briefly this evening to share with us, to summarize, really, the experiences that we've had tonight, the importance of truth and truth telling in a time of such darkness and such danger. And nobody tells the truth better or with more passion than Alan Keyes. Please welcome Alan Keyes. (Applause.)

ALAN KEYES: I don't always do this, but I'd like to say one word before Frank gets away because I rarely have a chance to do this. But I have, I hope, a heart for truth. But it always helps to know people who help you to get an understanding of the truth that's more accurate and factual and clear. And nobody goes to it with greater integrity than Frank Gaffney, so thank you for that over the years. (Applause.)

It is, of course, difficult to say anything that would be of any importance in the light of the incarnations of truth that we have witnessed this evening. But it is that understanding of truth that we have witnessed in Amil and Mosab that I think is on the line in the world, in America, but especially, I have always believed, in the state of Israel and in the existence of the Jewish state and of the Jewish people.

As I was thinking about what I might share this evening, something came to my mind. I was reminded of it again by Amil's remarks earlier because I think this understanding of truth is not commonplace anymore in our time and in our society. We have actually given in to the notion that, somehow or another, our science presents us with truth. And because it plays the tricks and does what seems like magic that has alleviated the human estate, we actually believe that it somehow establishes a standard for truth that can also be applied to our humanity.

But when science looks at objects, the more powerful force overcomes the weaker force. When it looks at objects, the rules and laws that it can somehow discern will determine the outcome regardless of what may or may not be the feelings of this or that human being. Not so, when we look at the actual account of human actions.

That account is filled with startling examples of times when the greater force met the weaker force, when the greater number met the weaker number and found that they had been bested not by material means, not by physical strength, but by the power of that which cannot be defeated and cannot be extinguished and cannot be ignored and that is the spirit of our humanity that will fight in the name of truth and of life no matter what. (Applause.)

We have read of such battles. And I certainly read of them in war and in the pursuit of justice, associated with names like Marathon and Selma, but associated as well in the history of our modern times with a people that stood as they never should have to reiterate an identity that had been scattered throughout the world, raising up once again a nation that is even to this day the only nation you can read of in ancient times that has resurrected the life and hope and spirit of a people.

And when they stood against powers that should have crushed them down, time and again, they triumphed and they survived not because of their material resources, but because of a spirit that would not accept the verdict of power, or force or even of history. (Applause.)

And I believe that we have come to a time – and I speak now particularly as an American – when it's no longer, if it ever was – and I never believed it was – it's no longer enough that we should accept an understanding of what binds us to the state and people of Israel that is based on this or that calculation of power and geostrategic interest. For this was not before, it cannot be now and it will never be an adequate understanding of what binds us together.

For even as Israel has stood as a nation to testify to the truth that in one nation and in one people there can be a spirit that will not be overcome, so my country, the United States of America, has stood from its beginning as a testimony to the truth that in one person and in one family and in one community and in one hope there can be a spirit that will not be put down, but that can raise up the hopes of all humanity. (Applause.)

And sometimes, sometimes I think folks get it wrong because they actually think that we have to struggle – and I know we can have differences over some of these things. You know, who is our enemy? What do we fight? How can we do this and that if we don't understand what we're against?

And I always think, somewhere in the back of my mind, that whether I look at the destiny of my nation or the partnership that we have had with the nation and people of Israel, the world can change as it will – enemies can come and go, evil will rise and fall – but the things we love and things we hope for and the truths that we respect, we hold them up not to crush our enemies but to inspire the heart of humanity and the hope of the world. (Applause.)

And you see, I think it is that positive truth that is the reason that even in these difficult times, when so many are forgetting – if they ever knew – the significance of this partnership and why it has so often been the case, as I found in my little tenure at the United Nations, working with Jeanne Kirkpatrick – you know, there were so many times when the smoke would clear in the General Assembly and other meetings that I attended and the entire world would be lined up in defense of a lie.

And there would be the United States and Israel, standing alone as we must sometimes, for justice and mercy and truth. And I believe that that is an inspiration that cannot be defeated by circumstances, that cannot be lost in calculation. And if it was important in the past – and this evening I won't go too much into this, though it is much on my heart – I think it's all the more important for America today. Because even as we have come to a crisis that threatens, I deeply believe, the peace of the world as well as the future of Israel, yet part of that crisis reflects the crisis of America's liberty, of America's justice and of America's way of life. We have lost our sense of our beginnings. We have lost our sense of the truth.

And before we were mighty and before we were powerful and before we were strong and before we could claim pre-eminence in economic life and military power, in a land where – there were those in Europe said the dogs even forgot how to bark – where there was no development and no power and nothing that would forebode the future that we became except the dreams in the hearts of patriots, who refused to act only for themselves and their class and their wealth and their power and chose, instead, to blazon on the foundation stone of this nation's life the truth that the dignity and worth and rights of every single human being do not come from the power of human force and human calculation, for they come from the force that lifted up the mountains and set the stars in place.

And if we stand – (applause). And if we stand with that power, we will not be defeated, even though we stand alone. (Applause.) But they also understood what, in every way, I believe, in policies – domestic, international, war, peace – we must never forget. It's a phrase that comes, as some other thoughts have come tonight, from the Bible. But it has always seemed to me to summarize an understanding of things that can transcend our differences and erase the distinctions of race and color and clime and creed.

When in that simple passage one sees a vision of what I think is the decency of all humanity, for what is it that the Lord requires of a man than this, that he do justice – do justice to treat others as you would be treated, to see in others the worth that you claim in yourself, to demand of others the responsibility you are willing to acquit in yourself, justice. To love mercy, that you will not be unwilling to understand that there, but for the grace of God, I am the poor and I am the hurting and I am the defeated and I am the lost and I am the wronged. And so I will champion them.

And to walk humbly, not in the spirit that requires recognition of one's great achievements and virtues, but rather in the spirit that understands that if we do right, no more is needed than this, that we hear somewhere in the conscience of that place in which the truth resides for us, the sanction and permission of the one who is the will of justice, as he is the will that created us all, and so walk humbly with our God.

I think this is the common cause that can unite us here: Americans across our lines of party and partisanship, Americans and Jews across the lines of difference that may be there in nationality, Muslims and Christians and Jews and secular believers in justice and righteousness who can stand together despite the differences in creed. Not because we're willing to see that you are right and I am wrong, but willing to understand that God was right when he made us all and set us here together to explore the hope he has for our humanity.

This is a cause that goes beyond the moment. And I believe, in the end, that if we serve it as we should, then America will survive and Israel will survive not because we have defeated all our enemies, but because we have never abandoned that spark of hope, that little flame of inspiration that, by our example, we can bring to life in every people, in every nation, in every race because there is that spirit of humanity which will not be repressed, which will not be defeated, which will not be silenced and which will, in the end, lift up before the eyes of God an answer that corresponds to the great hope that he had when first he said, let us make man. (Applause.)

And in that, we will not achieve the triumph of a nation, of a people. We will achieve the triumph of the earth and of all humanity, that we may move forward into a future that, if it remembers us at all, will remember us as the little candles in the darkness that kept the road clear, when it would otherwise have been lost, so that the real light and hope of the human spirit would have its time again to shine. (Applause.)

MR. GAFFNEY: Well, how about that for a little light in the darkness? Thank you, Alan Keyes, as always. (Applause.) Well, that concludes the program, but for one very important last word from our sponsor and one quick intervention by me, which is to say everyone has spoken magnificently tonight and, I'm very happy to say, with considerable brevity, which has, I hope, not left you wanting for more.

And the place to get more of this sort of truth, of this sort of inspiration, of this sort of light in the darkness, is the Endowment for Middle East Truth. EMET (eh-met), I understand it is pronounced, not EMET (E-met). But however you pronounce it, I hope you will write it on a

piece of paper that has value and send it to her as soon as possible. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

MS. STERN: This was amazing. This is amazing. I want to thank every single one of you who are here tonight for making all this happen. But there are a few incredible people that I really do have to thank, who've worked tirelessly, incredibly hard, to make this evening the fabulous success that it was.

First of all, my dear, wonderful friend and colleague, Frank Gaffney, Jr. from the Center for Security Policy – which, I have to say, if there is another piece of paper that you would like to write – (chuckles) – with a great deal of value on it, it is to Frank Gaffney, Jr.'s center, the Center for Security Policy. He has been telling the truth for years and years and years. (Applause.)

Please forgive me if I forget someone who's made this night the amazing success that it is, but I really do want to thank a few people in this audience who've worked incredibly hard: Karen Cohen, who is the chairperson of our board of directors. Karen, not only are you a wonderful chair, but you are a wonderful friend.

Mel Ciment and David Green, and Linda Stulberg who have brought so many people out and who have – Linda, you have given up your birthday celebration with your friends and your family tonight to be here. Thank you so much. (Applause.) Thank you, Mel. Thank you, David Green. Thank you, Linda Stulberg.

Ginger Pinchot, who has always been there – an amazing friend and supporter and shoulder to cry on. Doris Leeds (sp), for the incredible awards and the friendship and the support. Deborah Berman (sp), who's always been there. Rudy Meon (sp), I have to say, I thank you. And most of all, to these wonderful honorees tonight: Mosab Hassan Yousef – (applause) – and Amil Imani. I have to say that I am absolutely humbled in your presence.

And I have to say, also, Len Leader, thank you for enabling us to spread the truth. If it weren't for you, we would not be in existence today. Thank you, Len, for your generous matching funds. (Applause.) But I have to come back to Mosab Hassan Yousef and Amil Imani, I have to tell you that I am humbled in your presence. You should be celebrated, admired, feted and praised, You should be given the Nobel Prize. You should certainly not be deported. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

(END)