

Celebrating Israel's 60th Anniversary during NORPAC's Mission to Washington

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Rothman Meets with NORPAC's Mission to Washington and Addresses 900 Pro-Israel Activists

Pictured (L-R): NORPAC representatives and Teaneck, NJ residents: Rabbi Daniel Yolkut, Henry Frisch, Rep. Rothman, Nati Friedman, Dr. Jerry Friedman, and Daniel Altman

(Washington, DC)-In celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary, last week Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) addressed over 900 Jewish advocates from around the country who were in D.C. for NORPAC's annual Mission to Washington. In his remarks, Rothman explained to the group - which included many from Bergen County - how they can best ensure bipartisan support for a strong U.S.-Israel partnership for many decades to come.

"There is a continuing need for NORPAC's members to educate elected officials about the importance of a strong U.S.-Israel strategic partnership. Your efforts make a difference each year in emphasizing how America's national security interests are furthered by standing with Israel," said Rothman. "While the connection between our nations is grounded in centuries-old regard for Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people, it is also true that Israel's value to the U.S. as a military and economic ally is undeniable and powerfully persuasive."

Rothman went on to explain that Israel is by far the United States' strongest ally in the Middle East, citing numerous examples. These included joint defense projects, such as the effective Arrow anti-missile weapons system, intelligence and military assistance provided by Israeli Defense Forces to the U.S., and joint alternative energy ventures between U.S. and Israeli businesses and academic researchers.

At the conclusion of his speech, delivered in the Mellon Auditorium, Rothman presented Congressional Certificates of Recognition to NORPAC President Dr. Ben Chouake, NORPAC Vice President and Mission Chairman Dr. Mort Fridman, and NORPAC Mission Co-Chairs Dr. Richard Schluskel and Dr. Jeffrey Weinstein. NORPAC is a non-partisan political action committee whose sole purpose is to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

After speaking to all 900-plus members of the NORPAC delegation, the Congressman met with his Teaneck constituents for a more personal, in-depth discussion about U.S. foreign policy and national defense issues in his office. Present for the meeting were Henry Frisch, Daniel Altman, Dr. Jerry Friedman, and Nati Friedman, all from Teaneck, as well as Rabbi Daniel Yolkut. Rabbi Yolkut currently resides in Richmond, VA, but served four years at Congregation Keter Torah in Teaneck as Assistant Rabbi during his rabbinic training.

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