

Luncheon



Steve Israel – House of Representatives

Sworn into Congress in 2001, Steve Israel represents New York's 3rd Congressional District, including the communities of Huntington, North Hempstead, Queens, Oyster Bay, and Smithtown.

Israel is the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. In March 2012, he was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. In March 2013, Israel was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) Board of Visitors, providing the president recommendations on USMA matters.

Israel is considered a leader on energy security, reducing our national dependence on foreign oil, lowering energy costs and creating an innovative clean technology economy. His key energy accomplishments include funding the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy.

A passionate and relentless advocate for veterans and military families, Israel has secured more than \$5 million in overdue benefits for Long Islanders who served their country. He has visited U.S. troops in conflict areas on nine occasions, including visiting highly-remote fire bases in Afghanistan.

Israel is a defender of consumers, authoring a bill that would take arsenic – a known carcinogen – out of the poultry supply and working to implement mandatory rules for medicine cups, which due to frequent flaws lead to over- or under-dosing children.

The congressman has also been an active voice in the Middle East, supporting assistance for the State of Israel and American-Israeli relations. He called for the arrest of Iranian President Ahmadinejad on charges of incitement and genocide, led bi-partisan efforts to strengthen sanctions against Iran, and helped lead the funding of cutting-edge military equipment and technologies to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge. In March 2012, he was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Israel also considers himself a staunch advocate for middle class families. He's repeatedly called for a revision of the tax code to reflect regional variations in cost-of-living and helped author the Tax Equity Act, legislation that would level the playing field for families living in high cost-of-living communities. He has long sought a permanent fix to the Alternative Minimum Tax. In the 111th Congress, the congressman voted to extend the payroll tax cut for working families, saving the average middle class family \$1,500 in 2012. He also called for an extension of pre-tax commuter benefits in December 2011, a critical benefit for New York commuters.

Among Israel's local accomplishments are securing record-level federal investments to protect the Long Island Sound; seeking to protect Long Island taxpayers by changing the federal tax code to reflect the local cost-of-living; and supporting local women's health initiatives – a priority in his role as co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus.