

GENERAL BACKGROUND:

Congressman Steve Israel represents New York's 2nd Congressional District, which includes the Long Island towns of Huntington, Babylon, Islip, Smithtown and Oyster Bay. Israel is one of only two New York House Members on the House Armed Services Committee, where in addition to securing over \$100 million for Long Island businesses and over \$2.3 million in back-pay benefits for veterans, he has established a reputation as a legislative leader on energy security, professional military education and global nuclear challenges.

Israel also serves on the exclusive House Financial Services Committee, where he helped pass the bipartisan Terrorism Risk Insurance Act to ensure the availability of insurance in a post 9-11 world.

His leadership positions include:

- Assistant Democratic Whip.
- Co-Chair, House Center Aisle Caucus
- Co-Chair, House Cancer Caucus,
- Co-Chair, Long Island Sound Caucus
- Chair , House Democratic Caucus Task Force On Defense and the Military
- Co-Chair, House Democratic Study Group on National Security Policy

In 2005, Israel formed the House Center Aisle Caucus – a group of nearly 50 House Democrats and Republicans working to establish a respectful dialogue on contentious issues instead of partisan attacks and insults. As Israel said in creating the Caucus: "Democrats and Republicans may disagree on 75% of the issues. But if we agree and implement the remaining 25%, the country is 100% better off than before." The Caucus is supported by former Democratic House Speaker Tom Foley and Republican Leader Robert Michel.

Rep. Israel lives in Dix Hills with his wife, Suffolk County Family Court Judge Marlene Budd. He has two daughters, and a miniature schnauzer named Max.

ENERGY SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, Israel has argued that every military challenge we face now and in the near future is impacted by our vulnerability to foreign oil. Israel's "Next Generation Energy Security Plan" replaces thirty years of back-steps, missteps and small steps on energy with one giant leap towards energy independence. Israel's plan is a "man-on-the-moon" federal commitment to catalyze the private sector to research, develop and produce "clean energy" technologies. (Click here for the plan)

NATIONAL SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Recognizing Israel's expertise on national security issues, the House Democratic leadership tapped him to serve on the House Armed Services Committee. Israel is one of only two New York Members of the Committee and the only New York Democrat.
- Chairman, House Democratic Caucus Task Force on Defense & The Military – the official Democratic Caucus task force on national security issues.
- Founder and Co-Chairman, House Democratic Study Group on National Security Policy – a group of House Democrats pursuing innovative new foreign policy and national security approaches for 21st century challenges.

- Recognized as a congressional leader on reforming the education and training of military personnel to emphasize linguistics, cultural awareness, regional expertise, military history, demographics and more. Israel's leadership resulted in the addition of several important amendments on military education to the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill.
- Secured over \$100 million in funds for local businesses.

FINANCIAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- Israel's district is located less than fifty miles from the financial services capital of the world. That proximity of Israel's district to New York City helped him secure a spot on the exclusive Financial Services Committee. (There are only four Exclusive Committees in the House: Financial Services, Appropriations, Ways & Means and Energy & Commerce). The Committee has jurisdiction over financial institutions, capital markets, the insurance and accounting industries, and closing terrorist-financing conduits.
- Israel is regarded as a centrist and bipartisan member of the Financial Services Committee.
- Member, House Blue Dog Caucus Task Force on Financial Services.
- Among Israel's proudest achievements on the Committee was passage of Terrorist Risk Insurance, which Israel helped spearhead.

HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Co-chair, House Cancer Caucus – a group of dozens of House Members working to improve US policy on research, treatment and eradication of cancer deaths and illness.
- Co-chair, Long Island Sound Caucus – a bipartisan group of House Members supporting efforts to improve the ecology and economy of Long Island Sound communities.
- Sponsored and passed the "Save Our Women from Ovarian Cancer Act" – a bill supporting accelerated federal testing of new technologies to detect and diagnose ovarian cancer.
- Israel is leading efforts in Congress to accelerate health information technologies which improve the quality of care and reduce costs.
- 100 percent voting record by the League of Conservation Voters in 108th Congress.

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- The father of two daughters – one in college and the other on her way – Israel has sponsored major legislation to provide a permanent \$7,500 tax deduction for all educational expenses.
- Sponsor of legislation to create federally-matched Lifetime Education Savings Accounts.
- Israel has visited over 100 schools in his congressional district since his election in 2000.

THE CENTER AISLE CAUCUS

- Rep Israel co-chairs the House Center Aisle Caucus – a group of nearly 50 House Democrats and Republicans working to establish a respectful dialogue on contentious issues instead of partisan attacks and insults.
- The Caucus is seeking common ground on a diverse range of issues, including energy independence and health care.
- As Israel said in creating the Caucus: "Democrats and Republicans may disagree on 75 percent of the issues. But if we agree and implement the remaining 25 percent, the country is 100 percent better off than before."

- The Caucus is supported by former Democratic House Speaker Tom Foley and Republican Leader Robert Michel.